

Peres seeks direct talks to counter Husain peace plan

Israel's Prime Minister countered King Hussein's peace plan with one of his own calling for the support of all five permanent members of the UN Security Council including the Soviet Union.

Katynia rockets struck an Israeli settlement in Western Galilee hours before the Israeli Army announced its Lebanon withdrawal was complete. Helicopter gunships flew back into Lebanon.

Twenty-one Finnish soldiers of the UN force in Lebanon, held hostage since Friday by the Israeli-backed "South Lebanon Army" have been moved to a new location.

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, yesterday countered King Hussein of Jordan's recent Middle East peace moves with a new initiative designed to lead to a peace conference within three months.

He criticized, in a policy statement to the Knesset in Jerusalem, the proposals recently put forward by the King when he visited Washington. They envisaged, he said, a series of meetings between Jordanians, Palestinians and Israelis to prepare for an international conference.

"If he wants peace," Mr Peres said, "he must understand that he has to sit with Israel, and not always try to place Israel in some darkened waiting room until everything is concluded without it."

An international conference with Soviet participation could not conceivably produce a feasible peace plan, he said. The Russians would be likely at the outset to support the most extreme Arab position. "What possibility will there be for Jordan or the Palestinian delegation adopting a more moderate position than the USSR?" he asked.

Instead, Mr Peres said, Israel was proposing direct negotiations, without preconditions, under conditions of equality and between parties interested in peace rather than sides that are interested in the continuation of the conflict.

He presented the Knesset with a proposed timetable involving five stages. In the first, the United States should continue its informal discussions with Israel, Jordan, Egypt and Palestinians who are not members of the Palestine Liberation Organization, with which Israel refuses to talk.

A committee comprising only Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli members would then prepare an agenda for a conference, with the United States taking part.

US hostage 8

Instead of the international conference by King Hussein, which would include the Soviet Union, Mr Peres called for the enlistment of the support of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council for direct negotiations between Jordan and a Palestinian delegation and the Israelis, "without pre-committing themselves to support the stand of one of the sides."

The Palestinian representatives, according to his proposal, would be "authentic Palestinian representatives from the (Israeli-occupied) territories who will represent the stand of the inhabitants and will be acceptable to all the sides."

LONDON: British officials, now actively involved in backing King Hussein's peace initiative, were clearly encouraged yesterday by first reports of Mr Peres's plan (Edward Mortimer writes).

The reference to "the support of the permanent members of the UN Security Council" is seen in Whitehall as an important step forward by Israel towards King Hussein's proposal for talks "within this framework" of an international conference to be attended by the permanent members.

Although Mr Peres still rejects an international conference as such, it is understood that King Hussein has presented the conference only as a way of giving international legitimacy to the proposed talks. The gap between Jordanian and Israeli positions on procedure does not appear unbridgeable. By stressing that the Palestinians delegates must represent the inhabitants off the occupied territories, Mr Peres is clearly trying to head off any move by the US to support King Hussein in bringing in the PLO.

But the view in London is that no authentic representative of the territories will be willing to take part unless the PLO gives a green light.



Claus von Bulow arriving at court with his daughter

Von Bulow trial ends in acquittal

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Claus von Bulow's long ordeal ended yesterday with his acquittal on charges that he had tried to murder his wealthy wife.

He briefly covered his face with his hands after the verdict was announced to a packed and tense courtroom. Later, his face lit up by his relief, he drew deeply on a cigarette, saying: "It has been five years of worry."

Mr von Bulow, aged 58, had waited since Friday while the jury at Providence, Rhode Island, considered the evidence presented during the six weeks of his second trial.

It was three years and three months since his conviction and 30 year sentence, for trying to kill his wife. That conviction was overturned on appeal.

At a news conference after yesterday's verdict, Mr von Bulow said he was relieved and grateful to his lawyers. He added that he had no hard feelings towards his two step-children who had accused him of attempting to kill their mother.

He said he would like to have given evidence himself, but added "this was conducted quite rightly as a medical case. There was no crime."

This was an echo of what he had said while the jury was still out: "I'm not up on a charge of adultery. They are not judging me on whether I was a nice fellow. They are judging me on whether there was a crime."

The prosecution said he had tried to kill Martha von Bulow so that he could marry his mistress, Alexandra Isles, and get his share of his wife's fortune.

Mrs von Bulow, known by her nick-name of Sunny, has been in an irreversible coma in a Manhattan hospital since December of 1980. The prosecution had contended that this coma, and a coma a year earlier, were caused by insulin.

Continued on back page, col 1

Squatter diplomat to leave flat

By Patricia Clough

The Syrian diplomat who has been occupying a London family's home in defiance of a court order bowed to a Foreign Office ultimatum yesterday and said that he would leave it by Friday.

Earlier the Foreign Office had said that it Mr Ahmed Walid Rajah, a counsellor for Arab League affairs, did not vacate the flat or settle the dispute with the owners by Friday he would be asked to leave the country.

"It seems he is fulfilling the requirements," a Foreign Office official said later. If that was so, there was now "no question" of him leaving.

Thus ended, after a 24-hour blaze of publicity, a three-year battle by Mr John Chaffey, a

building engineer, and his wife, Suzanne, to regain their £85,000 flat in Stonor Road, Kensington, which they let to Mr Rajah in 1982 for six months.

Mr Chaffey said: "I am very relieved to see the end in sight. At the end of the day we can only wish that this man had been kicked out of the country."

The battle, the couple said, cost them and their children untold mental suffering, the family had to live separately with three different sets of friends and had run up £30,000 in bills. Now, in view of their debts, they did not know whether they would be able to live in the flat.

The rapid solution followed the disclosure by Mrs Chaffey

Continued on back page, col 3

'Military secrets passed by blackmail ring'

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

More than 1,300 highly classified documents were among sensitive information passed to foreign agents by a ring of homosexual British servicemen blackmailed into espionage on Cyprus, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Seven men, members of a "highly sensitive inter-service signals regiment, pleaded not guilty to 28 charges under the Official Secrets Act at the start of trial not expected to finish before the autumn.

Yesterday, after the third jury was sworn in Mr Michael Wright QC for the prosecution, told them they were trying a case in which the seven "betrayed their country by systematically channelling to foreign agents a vast quantity of highly classified secret and top secret information."

Mr Wright said: "The damage caused by passing of such material to foreign agents is quite incalculable... most of the men in the dock chose to supply the secret material... on a grand scale - not just in snippets or bits and pieces but literally by the bagful. They did so in part at least to save their skins, rather than risk exposure as homosexuals."

Boredom may also have been a factor but the defendants, whatever the motive do not appear to have balked at supplying even the most sensitive information in vast quantities."

Senior Aircraftman Geoffrey Jones, who "almost single-handedly formed this espionage ring and thereafter orchestrated its operations", admitted passing 200 top secret and 800 secret documents. SAC Adam Lightowler told investigators of passing 10 top secret papers and "hundreds" of secret papers.

Another defendant, Mr Wright said, spoke of several hundred secret papers and a fourth of passing 80 top secret ones.

Most of the defendants received rewards of money, drugs and sex. The country behind the spying was not clear, Mr Wright said.

Three agents were identified. One was an Arab known as "John", a second, "Alex", claimed to be a KGB major and a third was a Cypriot.

The ring began in early 1982 when Jones met "John" in a Larnaca nightclub and was caught in a homosexual orgy in the man's flat. He was forced eventually to recruit other servicemen, which he did by organizing homosexual parties, and blackmailing the participants.

Senior Aircraftman Jones, Lightowler and Christopher Payne had been taking part in homosexual parties in Jones's barracks room.

Investigators unravelled the ring, Mr Wright said, after Jones became infatuated with a Filipino club singer and was due to return to Britain.

He failed to carry out several security procedures before leaving and his liaison with the girl was discovered. Other details emerged early in 1984.

Mr Justice Stocker granted Mr Wright's request to continue his opening speech in camera today because national security was involved.

Report, page 3

Cheaper technology boost for cable TV

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

Multi-channel television should flourish throughout Britain over the next two years as cable network companies switch to cheaper satellite reception to revive their industry's flagging fortunes.

The Cable Authority, which regulates an industry dogged by financial problems and slow growth, is to allow companies which win franchises to install small satellite systems, instead of conventional technology.

The decision could provide a crucial boost to many of the 11 pilot cable companies which were meant to herald a revolution in British television.

Satellite technology, known as SMATV (Satellite Master Antenna Television), uses cheap dish aerials and cables to provide services to viewers. Many blocks of flats and small housing estates can be put on air almost immediately using the system, which does not require conventional and expensive cable-laying.

SMATV was not envisaged as an alternative to cable, Mr Davey said. "The people who have put forward this idea have emphasized it is a short-term experience."

Mr Jon Davey, director general of the Cable Authority, said that the authority had issued guidance notes to companies with cable franchises, saying that SMATV would be allowed as an interim measure.

Mr Chaffey said: "I am very relieved to see the end in sight. At the end of the day we can only wish that this man had been kicked out of the country."

The battle, the couple said, cost them and their children untold mental suffering, the family had to live separately with three different sets of friends and had run up £30,000 in bills. Now, in view of their debts, they did not know whether they would be able to live in the flat.

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Finns urge UN chief to act

By Our Foreign Staff

The hostage crisis of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil) dragged through its fourth day yesterday. A short meeting took place between an Israeli officer, a representative of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army and two Unifil officers but Mr Timur Goksel, the Unifil spokesman in Beirut did not reveal details of what was discussed.

The 21 seized Finnish soldiers were moved to the SLA headquarters at Marjayoun on Sunday and Unifil has now lost radio contact with them. One UN source said the moving of the Finns could mean a period of prolonged detention for them.

Unifil has also set up an inquiry into the incident in which 11 SLA men fell into the hands of Amal militiamen on Friday morning.

Amal, the Shia militia which has vowed to drive the SLA out of the area, claims that they were captured after a battle but it is believed that this is a cover for their defection to Amal.

In Helsinki, the Finnish Government yesterday condemned the seizing of the troops and appealed to the United Nations Secretary-General and concerned governments for a quick resolution of the incident.



Continued on back page, col 4

Israeli settlement hit by rockets

From Christopher Walker, Shomara, western Galilee

The grim realities of life in northern Israel three years after the invasion of Lebanon returned to this remote border settlement just before 8am yesterday when two Katyusha rockets thudded into orchards close to a school where 140 pupils were about to begin lessons.

The rockets were the first to hit western Galilee since the start of the Lebanon war in 1982. The case with which they were fired came as a shock to the Israeli authorities, who sought to emphasize that they had caused neither casualties nor damage.

"There was a lot of panic as we struggled to get the children down into the shelters," said Mr Meir Peretz, the shaken-looking janitor. "The younger ones were the most frightened. They kept asking how we are going to live."

The chief architect of the Lebanon war, Mr Ariel Sharon, now Minister of Trade, claimed that the attack could have been prevented if his proposal for an Israeli-controlled zone stretching 25 miles north of the border had been accepted by the Cabinet.

Instead, the Government settled for a shallower zone. After yesterday's attack, a civilian alert was ordered in some other settlements in anticipation of similar barrages.

Across the border, militiamen from the "south Lebanon army", with Israeli advisers,

Continued on back page, col 4

Alert over forged Wimbledon tickets

By Colin Hughes

Thousands of would-be Wimbledon tennis spectators who believe they hold prime court tickets may be disappointed, after the discovery of high-quality forgeries, it was disclosed yesterday.

Officials of the All-England Club, which runs Wimbledon, met senior police officers and detectives to find ways of protecting the public from the frustration of buying forged tickets, and have set up a special "hotline" for tennis fans who fear they may have been sold fakes.

Police are particularly concerned because the Wimbledon forgery find comes after similar

professionally-executed forgeries for big sporting events this year, notably the Paris Open tennis tournament, Ascot, and the England versus Wales rugby match at Twickenham.

The All-England Club said: "We have had problems with forgeries in previous years, but they have usually been rough and ready, and easily identifiable. Although these forgeries can be detected by several small differences in the printing, and anyone trying to use them would be unable to get in, they are much better than we have seen in the past."

Wimbledon police said: "They are such good reproductions that whoever has done

them must have done a large batch. Certainly hundreds, possibly thousands."

Tickets are allocated by ballot through the official agents, Keith Prowse, early in the year. It is, however, quite legal to sell them on. Anyone doubting the origin of tickets need not fear prosecution, since it is not illegal to receive the forgeries.

The forgeries have been for centre court seats, which range from £7 for the first days to £17 for the final day. The police, however, who are working on ways of quickly detecting the forgeries, say that others may be for No 1 court seats, which range from £6 to £11.

Hotline number, back page

Post Office 'watchdogs' in drive for efficiency

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The Post Office is recruiting a team of "watchdogs", many from outside the corporation and possibly including some school leavers, to examine its operations and identify inefficiencies.

A temporary team of 40 staff is already working in various parts of the country, concentrating particularly on the corporation's overnight operations, but the Post Office wants a permanent group of at least 50 people to carry on the work.

The mail inspectors will examine the transport arrangements for moving post and one

possible outcome of the exercise, according to the Post Office, is that 75 per cent of the mail carried by British Rail could be reduced.

Sir Ronald Dearing, the corporation chairman, said yesterday inspectors would examine scheduling of trains, stuffing on railway platforms at night, and sorting both inside sorting offices and on trains. They would question whether the Post Office should make greater use of road and air transport.

About 12 per cent of inland mail is moved by air, but the Post Office is reluctant to commit more because it could make the postal service vulner-

able to the vagaries of the weather.

Mr Bill Colburn, the Post Office board member for mail services, said the aim of the scrutiny operation was to achieve 90 per cent next-day delivery for first class mail, and 96 per cent of second class mail delivered within three days.

He said 18 people were already being trained for the permanent team of inspectors and external advisers for the remaining 38 posts, which pay up to £12,000 a year, had produced 500 applications. The Post Office was looking for a wide range of people to take on the work, including graduates

straight from university and possibly school-leavers.

Mr Colburn said the aim was to improve efficiency not to have a squad of people touring the country looking for "sifters".

Sir Ronald said British Rail knew it did not carry mail as of right and if the Post Office found more efficient ways of transporting letters and parcels around the country, it would not hesitate to use them.

He insisted that letter charges will rise later in the year, but said that the corporation was hoping to keep its promise to restrict increases to no more than the rate of inflation.



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Portfolio

There were three winners in yesterday's £2,000 Times Portfolio competition. Miss Eleanor Hardeck, Mr Derek Potter and Mrs S. Biek, all of London, each received £666. Portfolio list, page 16; how to play, information service, back page.

On Saturday, £22,000 can be won - the weekly prize of £28,000 and the daily £2,000.

1,800 pit jobs to go in Wales

At least 1,800 jobs are likely to be lost in the South Wales coalfield on top of the 2,000 at four collieries which are to be run down. The coal board announcement brings the total number of jobs to go in the next two years to at least 13,000.

Page 2

Narrow Lords' vote on GLC

The Government's majority fell to one in the Lords yesterday, the first day of the report stage of the Local Government Bill abolishing the GLC and the six metropolitan counties. Parliament, page 4.

Mexican visitor

President de la Madrid of Mexico who starts his state visit to Britain today intends to seek more trade and increased British investment. Pages 5, 12. Leading article, page 13.

Actor dies

Clifford Evans, the actor, who performed in English and Welsh and lived at Cloddiau, Powys, died in hospital on Sunday at the age of 73.

Judge accuses

Lord Devlin, the retired Lord of Appeal, who tried the Dr Bodkin Adams murder case, tells The Times today that Adams was guilty.

Spectrum, page 10

Walesa plea

Mr Lech Walesa urged a Polish court to release three Solidarity colleagues and said they were not part of a secret plot to spread strikes. Page 7.

22 years' jail

Two ringleaders of the gang involved in the £6 million Security Express raid, Britain's biggest cash robbery, were each jailed for 22 years. Page 3.

Francisco fined

Silvino Francisco, a leading professional snooker player from South Africa, was fined a record £6,000 for bringing the game into disrepute. Page 24.

Leaders page, 13

Letters on pensions, from Mr T. S. McLeod; famine, from Dr Frances D'Souza; Leading articles: Omega file; Mexican visit; Ottawa secrecy; Obituary, page 14; Professor John Spink, Professor Louis Robert.

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Banking on security, Labour's hi-tech answer; Racing for Europe's telecommunications; American money boosts UK robotics; Slump bites into Apple Features, pages 10-12

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Threat to 1,800 more pit jobs in Wales review

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The National Coal Board yesterday outlined its plans for the South Wales coalfield and indicated that at least 1,800 jobs are likely to disappear on top of 2,000 at four collieries already identified to be run down.

Unlike other areas which have during the past six weeks disclosed their plans, the board's area managers gave the mining unions no specific details but instead agreed to a joint review of the future of the area's biggest loss-making pits.

National Union of Mineworkers' officials leaving a meeting yesterday with board officials said they believed about 1,800 jobs would go, but some industry sources suggested that could be a conservative estimate.

The board has already announced the closure of Bedwas and St Johns collieries, the merger of Maerdy, the last remaining centre of coal production in the Rhondda, with Tower pit and the likely closure of Colwyn south because of lack of reserves. About 2,000 jobs will be lost in that programme.

Board officials refused to name the pits that will be considered for closure in the joint review, but the large loss makers in recent years have included Penrhydy, near Aberdare, Treforon, near Neath, and Markham, near Blackwood.

Mr Philip Weekes, director of the South Wales coalfield, said that the "special action" required to identify difficulties in the area would produce sound long-term prospects if the issues were approached jointly.

South Wales was the last of the board areas to announce the results of its post-strike review

Workforce will fall by 18,000

By Rupert Morris

The latest announcement by the National Coal Board of job losses in south Wales brings the total number of jobs to go nationally over the next two years to at least 18,000.

These come on top of at least 12,000 miners who left the industry during the strike, and make the original announcement of 20,000 job losses, which started the strike, seem relatively modest.

In Scotland and the North-east, for instance, the number of job losses required at the beginning of the strike was almost exactly met by miners who left during the strike, convinced, in spite of their leaders' urgings, that they had no future in mining.

By 1987, Yorkshire's workforce seems certain to have been reduced from 54,000 before the strike to fewer than 42,000. The 820 men at Cortonwood where the strike began, will lose their jobs by the end of the year, unless the colliery review procedure comes up with something unexpected.

Britain's total mining workforce will have declined from 200,000 in March 1984 to about 170,000 in March 1987.

The table is based on the latest coal board review. The figures have not yet been collated nationally and are, therefore, approximate.

| | Planned | During Strike |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| North-east | 2,000 | 2,500 |
| Yorkshire | 2,500 | 3,000 |
| Doncaster | 3,000 | |
| Burnley | 1,000 | |
| North Yorkshire | 2,000 | |
| South Yorkshire | 2,000 | |
| 5 Wales | 1,800 | |
| Kent | under threat | 700 more losses possible |
| Scotland | 900 | 2,100 |
| Midlands | 900 | 4,500 |
| Not westgate | | |
| Total | 18,200 | 12,100 |



Rock stars gather at Wembley Stadium, in London, after the announcement that Band Aid is to stage two vast concerts to raise cash for the Ethiopian famine appeal. Photographed from left to right are Tony Hadley (Spandau Ballet), Midge Ure (Ultravox), Gary Kemp (Spandau Ballet), Adam Ant, Bob Geldof and Elton John. Band Aid's leader, said the concerts would be staged at Wembley Stadium and the John F. Kennedy stadium in Philadelphia on July 13 and would be broadcast live on BBC television and Radio 1.

Home grants Bill deferred

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government has drawn back from early legislation on reorganization of home improvement grants, another issue on which it faced serious backbench opposition.

A Green Paper last month, pressed for hard by the Treasury, proposed that government policy would be changed to one in which responsibility for repairs would be placed firmly on owner-occupiers with assistance only for the poorest through a means test.

Conservative MPs voiced their alarm to ministers that the proposals, incorporated in the paper *Home Improvement - A New Approach*, appear to be solely an expenditure-saving

exercise and risk depressing the building industry further.

Mr Ian Gow, Minister for Housing and Construction, announced to the Housing Consultative Council yesterday that the consultation period on the Green Paper was being extended to September 30 from July 9. In effect there will be no Bill in the next parliamentary session beginning in the autumn, as Treasury ministers hoped.

There have been sharp differences among ministers and Mr Gow has resisted Treasury attempts to end improvement grants. In deciding not to go ahead with a Bill next session, ministers have also been swayed by a crowded

legislative programme and that they can control expenditure on improvement grants by other means.

Mr Michael Latham, Conservative MP for Rutland and Melton, said last night that the Green Paper was a mess and likely to result in a deterioration in the housing stock.

He hoped that the document would be rewritten.

Increased government spending on construction is one of the main prescriptions of many Conservative MPs and groups such as Centre Forward for stimulating employment.

The Cabinet decided last Thursday to delay legislation on ending of rent controls on new lettings of private housing.

Blacks plan rejected by Labour

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

Labour's organization committee yesterday rejected by 12 votes to 14 a plan to set up constitutional black sections, after Mr Neil Kinnock and Mr Roy Hattersley had argued that separate black and Asian representation would create problems of definition and would be "deeply patronizing".

The plan had been proposed by a working party, after seven months of consultation which had produced a four-to-one constituency majority in favour of black sections as a means of enhancing black and Asian representation.

But the organization committee agreed that positive discrimination was needed to support "the aspirations of black and Asian British for an increasing role in the political life of this country."

The working party had called for an ethnic minority committee to be formed "to consider issues of concern to black people". Joint policy committees to give black input; the employment of a full-time black official at party headquarters; and the introduction of ethnic monitoring in the party to counter racism and promote positive action policies.

MPs' warning on cuts in defence expenditure

The resources which the Government plans to make available for defence during the next few years will not be adequate to prevent a decline in Britain's defence capability. This is the central conclusion of a report published yesterday by the House of Commons defence committee.

On the possibility of Britain becoming involved in the American Star Wars research programme, the committee says it understood from the comments of Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, that his main interest in participating in the programme would be not so much to move closer to President Reagan's strategic defence vision, but to gain access to a wide range of technological developments which would have much wider application.

The committee gives a warning that should the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty collapse as a result of the Strategic Defence Initiative the credibility of the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent might be called into question.

The report is likely to feature prominently in a two-day defence debate in the Commons tomorrow and on Thursday.

On the question of the adequacy of resources to meet Britain's defence commitments, the committee says that substantial pressures will develop on the defence budget in coming years, and that this will require some hard decision-making.

After seven years of rising defence spending, it is government policy that there should be no further growth in real terms after next March.

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New Soviet embassy plans soon

Plans for a new Soviet embassy in West Kensington, west London, will soon be submitted to the Royal Fine Art Commission, it was disclosed last night.

The scheme was first disclosed in *The Times* during the visit to Britain last year of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev.

Abuse of embassy buildings in London, many of which are listed, is an issue dealt with in the Commission's first report for 13 years, published yesterday.

The building of the East German Embassy in Belgrave Square and the demolition of the Chinese Embassy in Portland Place, opposite the headquarters of the Royal Institute of British Architects, led to letters from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to foreign governments asking them to take proper care of their premises.

Royal Fine Art Commission, Twenty-second report, October 1971 - December 1984. (Command 9498, Stationery Office, £8.55).

Joseph willing to consider teaching council scheme

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, would be prepared to consider proposals for a General Teaching Council to police the profession, it was confirmed yesterday (four Education Correspondent writes).

But the move would have to be subject to agreement from teachers' organizations, and would have to be of benefit to pupils, parents and the public at large, Whitehall sources stated.

It is known that Sir Keith, a former secretary of state, is lukewarm about a

General Teaching Council because it would serve to protect teachers at the expense of the public.

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, suggested Sir Keith would be the main stumbling block to the idea, reported in *The Times* yesterday.

Mr Jarvis said: "We are in favour of such a council because teachers would assume responsibility for entry standards and discipline."

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Union warns of gas strike

Strikes over privatization can be expected before Christmas in the gas industry, a union leader said yesterday (Our Labour Reporter writes).

Mr David Sturaker, national gas officer of the National and Local Government Officers' Association, said the action would start with a 24-hour stoppage.

Mr Sturaker, leader of 48,000 white-collar workers in the industry, said he was confident the union would win an industrial action ballot.

The call for action was made yesterday at a meeting of gas group delegates. The General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union has already taken a similar decision, and so the disruption would involve 104,000 employees, Mr Sturaker said.

But he said that the disruption would not mean the ending of emergency services.

Delegates accepted a pay offer of between 3.5 per cent and 6.2 per cent. But colleagues in the water group rejected 5.4 per cent on basic wages.

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Bradford 'never sought fire safety advice'

From Peter Davenport, Bradford

Bradford City Football Club never sought or received fire brigade advice on fire prevention at its Valley Parade ground, the public inquiry into the ground's disaster was told yesterday.

And the fire service did not have the manpower necessary to carry out a programme of general safety checks at stadiums, although it had the power in law to take action in potentially dangerous situations.

Mr Peter Kneale, assistant chief officer of the West Yorkshire fire brigade and in charge of fire prevention operations, told the inquiry that the service had never received any request from the club to provide advice.

He also said that the fire brigade was not involved in any recommendations made by West Yorkshire County

Council to the club under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act, 1975.

He said: "To my knowledge there was no request from Bradford City specifically directed to the fire service for advice of a fire prevention nature."

The only visit by the fire brigade had been to advise on precautions within the clubhouse and administrative building at Valley Parade.

Mr Kneale said that it was the fire brigade's normal practice to await a request before offering advice. However, in 1982 West Yorkshire County Council wrote to all football clubs in its area offering advice. Only one club accepted.

Mr Justice Popplewell, who is heading the inquiry into the fire, which claimed 56 lives, asked Mr Kneale if he was aware of powers available to the fire brigade under section 10 of the Fire Precautions Act,

1971, and the Safety of Sports Grounds Act to take action if it thought fire risks so great that premises should be closed to the public.

Mr Kneale said that the fire brigade did not have enough manpower to undertake a programme of general safety checks, and normally relied on a complaint before acting.

The inquiry continues today.

The Bradford disaster appeal fund has now topped £2 million, organizers announced yesterday.

The fire brigade has condemned Northampton Town Football Club's main stand as a fire hazard and says that work must be done at once if the stand is to be used next season.

It reports that if the stand caught fire it could collapse in half the time it should.

Chelsea Football Club will introduce computerized identity cards for fans as part of the

fight against crowd violence, it was announced yesterday.

The cards, which will be voluntary, will allow supporters through automatic turnstiles into specially separated areas of the ground, in operation for the first match of next season.

The sole British victim of the Brussels disaster, Mr Patrick Radcliffe, aged 37, was buried yesterday in his home town of Downpatrick, Co Down.

In spite of being banned from a European football tournament a police team from Medway, Kent, still received the winners' trophy.

The 20 officers were presented with it by the Dutch police team which won the international five-a-side indoor tournament, held in Belgium.

The men also received a sportsmanship award for travelling to Brussels, although they knew that they would not be allowed to play.

Jail threat to judge over unpaid fine

Deputy High Court judge Vivian Price was warned by Guildhall magistrates yesterday that he would go to prison for three months if he did not pay an outstanding fine within 14 days.

Price, aged 59, had reported earlier in the day at a City of London police station after a he had paid into court, bounced. He appeared on a warrant issued for his arrest for non-payment.

The court was told that he did not arrive on March 12 for a hearing about his failure to pay value-added tax, and in his absence was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £50 costs.

Price, who gave address as New Court, Temple, London, said: "I signed the cheque thinking I had plenty of pounds in my account to meet it. I had admitted having four previous convictions for similar offences."

Financier beaten outside court

Mr Alex Herbage, an international financier, said yesterday that he had won the lifting of High Court orders preventing him dealing with assets in The Netherlands of his Capricorn commodity investment company after judgements totalling £6 million obtained in Dutch courts by creditors.

As Mr Herbage, aged 54 who weighs 32 stone, left the Law Courts he was punched and kicked to the ground by two men. He reported the incident to Bow Street police station.

Ethiopians wait over asylum

Six Ethiopian stowaways found on a cargo ship when it docked in Londenbury are still waiting to be told whether they can stay in the United Kingdom.

The men, aged between 19 and 38, have applied for political asylum. The Home Office said last night that their case was being considered, but no decision would be made before today.

Frenchman fined over death crash

A French driver whose lorry jacked into a coach, killing three people and injuring 40, was fined £100 and ordered to pay £50 costs at Northford, Norfolk, yesterday. Marcel Serge Dotal, aged 38, of Caudey, north-east France, admitted careless driving.

Church experts disagree on embryo status

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

An expert committee on the Church of England has failed to agree on the human status of embryos in their early stages, and therefore had to publish its report yesterday setting out both sides of the case.

It is to be debated in the General Synod of the Church of England next month, and there are likely to be attempts to resolve the fundamental question by moving amendments to it.

The report comes from the board for social responsibility, which acknowledged that opinion in the church is "deeply divided". A comment prepared by the board in response to the Warnock report was debated in the synod in February, and failed to gain majority support.

The present report was neither a response to the Warnock report nor to Mr Enoch Powell's parliamentary Bill banning experiments on embryos, which was talked out last Friday.

The committee did agree that the emergence of the "primitive streak" in a developing embryo, at about 14 days after fertilization, was the key point; and beyond that stage all members of the committee were agreed the embryo should have full rights, attributed to it. The essential disagreement concerned the period before 14 days had elapsed.

The report is to be offered to the synod as an aid to

"informed and considered thought". The section of the synod which resisted the board's advice will have an opportunity to table resolutions asserting the absolute rights of an embryo from fertilization onwards.

The board's working party, under the chairmanship of Professor Robert Berry, summed up its disagreement by saying: "We are not able to agree on the status of the human embryo in its early development. One view holds that human life begins at conception; a continuum and should be afforded the status and protection we give to all human beings."

"The other view holds that we have a duty to judge when, in the development of human life, a particular life has reached a stage where it possesses the essential features of the full human being and therefore must be protected."

Those holding the latter view would "wish to be cautious" about offering full protection to an early embryo.

Personal Origins (CJO Publishing, Church House, Dean's Yard, London SW1T 2JL).

The Times overseas selling price: Australia \$10.00; Belgium 10.00; Canada \$12.00; France 10.00; Germany 10.00; Greece 10.00; Hong Kong 10.00; India 10.00; Italy 10.00; Japan 10.00; Korea 10.00; Malaysia 10.00; Mexico 10.00; New Zealand 10.00; Norway 10.00; Pakistan 10.00; Portugal 10.00; Singapore 10.00; South Africa 10.00; Sweden 10.00; Switzerland 10.00; Taiwan 10.00; Thailand 10.00; USA \$12.00; West Germany 10.00.



The Transport Bill threatens to cancel the village bus-and cut off the countryside.

It is opposed by members of all major political parties, bus companies and manufacturers, Metropolitan, Shire and Local councils, Trade Unions, Friends of the Earth, Women's Institutes, and many others.

Public Transport Information Unit, 308 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8DY.

and many other

Captain Watt was giving evidence before Mr Justice Hirst, in an action brought by the original owners of the colliery, Alchemy International Ltd, a Liechtenstein-based company, which is suing Tattersalls for the difference between the original bid of £200,000 and the 200,000 guineas the colt fetched when offered again on the same day as the first sale, two days later.

Captain Watt said that the rules allowed him to offer Solafiah for resale immediately in the case of a "dispute" only.

"In my view there had been no dispute in the ring and the contract had been made under our conditions of sale.

The case continues today.



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PARLIAMENT JUNE 10 1985

Abolition Bill report stage

Travel and safety

Care for disabled

Government to 'wait and see' on GLC Bill

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

It was not the Government's intention to try to get the Local Government Bill passed in the House of Commons, the Minister of State for the Environment, said when the report stage of the Bill began in the House of Lords.

That would not be a proper use of the time of the House (he said) and the Government does not intend to reach a final view on the amendments carried against its advice until we have seen the overall outcome of the considerations of this House on the Bill.

The Government would then consider the position as it affected the functions of the GLC and the metropolitan counties devolved to the boroughs and districts.

We will also consider the need to provide a framework within which the successor authorities will be able to carry out their functions in an efficient and economical manner.

Lady Steadman (SDP) moved an amendment, coupled with a series of related amendments, which would oblige the Government to make provision for the new authorities in each metropolitan county and the GLC to provide strategic guidance for the preparation of a unitary development plan for public transport, highways and traffic management.

The amendments, she said, were a further attempt to safeguard planning and environmental concerns in the light of widespread concern expressed for their future during earlier debates and the consequences which would follow for large cities and their surrounding countryside.

These concerns would be met without undermining the principles of the Bill but would allow the continuation of proved and valuable work and would keep together the services of expert teams. This would be on the lines of a logical place for these services to be carried out and there was nothing out of keeping with the existing shape of the Bill.

They were modest amendments, not seeking to wreck or overturn Government proposals for abolition, and they did not attempt to establish a mini authority designed to thwart the Government's intentions.

They merely sought to adapt the powers of the bodies already established within the Bill and the continuation of the functions she proposed was in keeping with the work of these bodies.

Lord Kilmer (SDP) said the proposal for the GLC area was to bring together in one body strategic planning, highways and traffic matters. This would be on the lines of the joint body already agreed for the fire service and civil defence.

It was common sense that these functions should be coordinated if chaos was to be avoided and it would not be a breach of the Conservative Party's election manifesto.

The Government's plan to transfer planning in London to the Secretary of State amounted to nationalisation which was an odd sentiment for the present administration.

The question was whether these vital functions should go to the minister and quango bodies appointed by him or should be placed in the hands of the borough councillors through a single joint body.

The second proposal was the more appropriate and sensible as well as more practical, pragmatic and democratic.

Lady Birk (Lab) said the amendments added up to a simple proposal to

secure precisely the coherence and effectiveness in planning which was needed; in fact they improved the present system.

They would provide a strategic framework which would coordinate the activities of these bodies: government departments, joint boards, nationalised industries, private firms, and individual boroughs and districts whose decisions would influence the future shape of cities.

Lord Elton said the Countryside Commission might have an important role to play. The chairman was short, he said, with the responsible minister the question in both cash and manpower of ensuring that countryside management was responsibly carried forward by successor authorities.

What all these amendments would do was to create precisely the kind of situation the Bill was designed to abolish. There were other and better ways of meeting the need for certain issues to be co-ordinated and considered across local authority boundaries which did not, as these amendments did, multiply the stages of planning arrangements.

The Government was concerned that the expert teams should be kept together and had undertaken that the residual bodies would play a positive role in holding them together. To achieve that, the Government had tabled an amendment to be debated later allowing the residual bodies, by agreement with any relevant successor authority, to take on appropriate professional or technical services.

Lord Bascourt (Ind) said he was no friend of the GLC but it was clear that land-use planning and transport were linked and there should be the organisational machinery which would resolve rather than sharpen any conflicts between them.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C) said it was also absurd to confine planning and transport to the area covered at present by the GLC because it was necessary to consider the whole south-east of England.

Lord Elton said that if the GLC and metropolitan councils were replaced by hanging their functions on to some other successor body at the same time would produce some incongruous mixtures of functions. It would also be to fly in the face of the principle that decisions on planning applications should be at all stages in the hands of directly elected bodies.

He had been persuaded that there was a need for a consultative planning committee for London and could undertake to bring forward amendments to establish a committee of London boroughs. In finalising the details, he would wish to work closely with the London Boroughs Association. The House would be well advised to accept what he proposed at third reading.

The first amendment, relating to strategic planning for public transport, highways and traffic in the metropolitan counties, was rejected by 146 votes to 145 - Government majority, 1.

A third amendment, relating to planning and the environment, was rejected by 153 votes to 141 - Government majority, 12.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on Opposition motion on famine and debt relief; Sacking of Lord Carrington; Debate on an Opposition motion on the plight of young people.

Lords (2.30): Transport Bill, second reading.

increase had been to the detriment of rural services, he argued that there had been a long-term decline. He also said the safety record of long distance coaches was good and getting better, now equalling that of rail travel.

Repeating the Minister's point (West Derbyshire, C) he said passengers on the National Bus Company's national express services had increased by about 50 per cent since 1980 and he believed the independent operators had increased their carriages by an even greater figure.

Mr Parris: What has been the effect of this astonishing improvement on fares?

Mr Spicer: Since we liberalized long

Britain seeking more liberal air fare structure with France

AIR TRAVEL

The new liberal regime for air services between Britain and the Netherlands has led to a dramatic increase in passenger use and Mr Michael Spicer, Under Secretary of State for Transport, is hoping to see the French minister of aviation soon to discuss how to improve the structure of services between the two countries.

Mr Spicer said during questions in the Commons that since an agreement with the Dutch last year, lowest fares between London and Amsterdam had fallen by as much as 44 per cent. The lowest fare to Paris had risen by 4 per cent.

Mr Simon Coombs (Swindon, C): Those are considerable figures, which demonstrate the importance of opening up European air routes to the maximum possible competition.

Against that background, does the minister recognize the need for continuing negotiations with the French to ensure that the route which does not show such remarkable improvement, but indeed a deterioration?

Mr Spicer: Mr Coombs is right that the new liberal regime with the Dutch has had a dramatic effect on travel. That has risen by 17 per cent as against a European average of 10 per cent.

I hope to see the French minister of aviation within the next few weeks to discuss how to improve the structure of air fares between this country and France.

Mr John Wilkinson (Ruislip-Northwood, C): In those important negotiations, will the minister approach the airlines from the point of view of the Treaty of Rome and its important free competition provisions? There is a prima facie case that a number of countries, including France, are not carrying out those provisions, at least in

accordance with the spirit of the treaty.

Mr Spicer: The Government is becoming increasingly impatient that the provisions of the Treaty of Rome which apply to manufacturing industry do not apply to service industries, especially aviation.

Mr Robert Jones (West Hertfordshire, C): Then, as the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to persuade other European countries to agree to more liberal air service arrangements with the United Kingdom.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State: We have negotiated liberal air service arrangements with The Netherlands, Germany and Luxembourg. We are in the course of

discussions with France, Italy, Switzerland and the Scandinavian countries and are maintaining pressure for establishment of a liberal air transport policy by the European Community.

Mr Jones: Will Mr Ridley indicate what countries are dragging their feet? Would it not be a good idea to open negotiations with countries outside the EEC such as Scandinavia to bring home to them the

benefits to their tourist trades of lowering fares and to air routes, which are being obstructive, in the pocket?

Mr Ridley: We are approaching countries which are not members, such as Norway, Sweden, Austria and Switzerland, to try to negotiate liberal arrangements with them.

Of the 10 new services to the Netherlands, six serve regional airports and that two out of the six new services to Germany are serving regional airports.

Mr Stephen Ross (Sale of Wight, L): Suggestive negotiations with East European countries because it was ridiculous not to be able to fly direct to east Berlin but to have to fly to Amsterdam and half way round the Baltic.

Mr Ridley: That is a different proposition. They are not used to private enterprise liberal arrangements. They are also with the

Sir Geoffrey Flinberg (Hampstead and Highgate, C): When he negotiates with the French Government, will he try to persuade them that it is crazy to keep a closed shop on fares and services to Strasbourg, which is not only meant to be the headquarters of the European Assembly but of the Council of Europe?

Mr Ridley: I agree. Both on the route to Paris and to other French airports, there seems to be no reason why there should not be liberal arrangements. We are continuing to urge that view on our French friends.

Mr Anthony Steen (South Hams, C): This major problem is pooling arrangements with state airlines have with each other.

Mr Ridley: I only wish I could bring those pooling arrangements to an end. We have made our view clear in the EEC Council of Transport Ministers and will continue to do so, but it takes two to make an agreement.

RAF airlift ceases at end of September

FAMINE RELIEF

The RAF Hercules which has been airlifting food and other emergency supplies in Ethiopia will be withdrawn at the end of September, Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, told the Commons.

He also announced further British aid of £750,000 for transport needs and held out the prospect of 10,000 tonnes more food aid in addition to the 40,000 tonnes already being supplied.

Replying to questions about transport needs in Ethiopia, Mr Raison said: About 3,000 long and short haul trucks are needed in all. Of these about 1,300 are currently deployed including 350 recently made available by the Ethiopians. A further 450 trucks pledged by donors should arrive soon and we hope the Ethiopians will provide more.

We shall provide further assistance of £750,000 for transport needs in Ethiopia, including seminars and truck hire and maintenance, and provided it can operate effectively during the rains, we have decided to extend the British airlift, until September 30. It will then be withdrawn after 11 months' magnificent work.

Mr Sydney Chapman (Chipping Barnet, C) it is a disgrace that the Ethiopian Government has failed to carry out the commitment it gave, renewable some months ago to provide 4,000 vehicles for the much needed distribution of aid.

Has Mr Raison made any estimate of the additional suffering of the Ethiopian people due to the

oppressive non-commitment of their government?

Mr Raison: I cannot give any such estimate. For some months we have been pressing the Ethiopians to fulfil their earlier promise to provide vehicles. They have now undertaken to deploy military vehicles and all other available transport to increase the daily take-up from the port of Assab from 1,200 tonnes a day to 4,000 tonnes a day in order to clear the congestion there. I hope that will now be successfully achieved.

Mr Nigel Forman (Cardinal and Wallington, C): Could Mr Raison say whether the 350 vehicles which the Ethiopians have already made available represent a significant part of the total needs of transport?

Mr Raison: The 350 is a valuable contribution; it is significant. I believe the Ethiopians have also agreed to provide 4,000 trucks. Mr Robert Maclean (Cathness and Sutherland, SDP): Why is Mr Raison proposing to discontinue the valuable service of the RAF Hercules after 11 months?

Mr Raison: I believe by the end of 70 tons per day. As the need to take all possible steps to avoid a recurrence, he said.

Appointment of circuit judges

The appointment of extra circuit judges would continue and the Government hoped the total number would reach 440 by the end of the decade, Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, said during Commons questions.

In answer to Mr Alexander Carlile (Montgomery, L), he said there were 335 circuit judges in June 1982; 346 in June 1983; 353 in June 1984; and 374 in June 1985.

Mr John Cartwright (Woolwich, SDP): What about the growth of cases in central London?

Mr Spicer: We are studying the whole question of congestion in the London area, but this has as much to do with the increase in tourism as about the liberalization of coach services.

Mrs Virginia Bottomley (South Surrey, C): Has deregulation had any effect on safety records?

Mr Spicer: The safety record of long distance coaches is good and getting better. The number of accidents involving coaches has halved in the last decade and the safety record of coaches is now equal to that of rail travel.

Classified documents investigation

SECURITY

Investigations into the discovery of classified defence documents by two boys on a London rubbish dump have been completed and a report is being prepared on the incident, Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, said in Commons questions today.

Replying to a question from Mr Tam Dalyell (Lanarkshire, Lab), he said the boys had found the documents at the premises of J. J. Maybanks Ltd, contractors to HMSO for the disposal of restricted, in confidence and unclassified paper waste.

The documents were classed as restricted and were printed on plastic paper or microfiche. They should have been included in the material for disposal by Maybanks as they were non-pulpable.

All Ministry of Defence staff were now being reminded about the correct method of disposing of non-pulpable material and the need to take all possible steps to avoid a recurrence, he said.

Scotsman's claim to peerage

A motion that Lord Keith of Kinkaid (Ind) should be appointed chairman of the Committee for Privileges for consideration of the petition in the Annandale Peerage case was agreed to in the House of Lords.

The case is one in which Mr Patrick Hope Johnstone, a Scottish landowner, from Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire, is trying to resurrect the title of Earl of Annandale and Hartfell which was last used in 1795.

Glue sniffing

The Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Bill prohibiting the supply to people under the age of 18 of substances which may cause intoxication if inhaled completed its remaining stages in the House of Lords.

Liberals launch video campaign for recruits

The Liberal Party launched a "high-tech" membership drive yesterday aimed at attracting 10,000 new recruits within a fortnight.

A video, containing a personal message from Mr David Steel, the party leader, has been prepared together with a pilot computer scheme, to bolster the party's static membership of 110,000 in preparation

Tighter rules coming on vehicle spray

REGULATIONS

Regulations on the use of spray suppressors on heavy lorries will be tightened and extended to other vehicles in the light of experience with the present regulations, Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, said during Commons questions today.

She had been asked by Mr Roger Seet, an Opposition spokesman on transport, on road safety, what future steps he is prepared to take to enforce the reduction of spray from heavy lorries. There are a number of products on the market, specifically designed spray suppressor units - a number of them very good indeed - that do reduce quite substantially the levels of spray generated by lorries on the motorway.

Mrs Chalker: I have already in the last 12 months brought in construction and use of regulations to require the fitting of spray suppression equipment. As greater experience with such equipment is gained, there will be a case for tightening up these construction and use regulations and extending their use to other vehicles not required at present.

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Survey should help planning of services and cash benefits

DISABLED

The fifteenth anniversary of the Bill that became the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 was marked in the Commons by a debate initiated by the Opposition spokesman and former minister for the disabled.

He recalled that it was said in 1970 that his Bill was ambitious for any back-bench MP to introduce, but on reflection he regretted that it had not been more widely ranging and stronger in parts, and that it had not made it illegal to discriminate against disabled people.

Mr Anthony Newton, Minister for Social Security and for the Disabled, said there could be very few Acts of Parliament which had made directly and indirectly so considerable an impact and its title had become almost a household word.

The Government had, he pointed out, announced it had commissioned a survey to gain more up-to-date information about the extent of disablement and its effect. He hoped this would help plan services and cash benefits.

Mr Morris (Manchester, Wythenshawe, Lab) said the most pressing problem now was not that of naming an early day for major new advances but of doing all possible to defend the service the Act provided. Powerful voices were calling for more flexibility in applying the Act by which they meant the dilution of its provisions.

The dilemma experienced by some local authorities in fulfilling their legal duties would be made even more cruel by rate capping and further rate support grant cuts. Not only Labour authorities were protesting. There was a growing and genuine gap between the services Parliament intended for the disabled and the provision made for them in many areas.

There was great anxiety about the effects of the disabled and their families of the Government's Green Paper proposals on reform of social security.

Even if the minister could not give detailed figures, he should at least try to give the disabled some reassurance about the percentage of

judges of local circumstances and the best placed to assess the needs of the individual. The Government had always been prepared to pursue inquiries where prima facie evidence suggested local authorities were in breach of their statutory duties.

Local authorities did face difficult choices, as did central Government itself, at a time of budgetary and financial constraint. Local authorities should continue to bear the burden of vulnerable groups in mind and the Government believed they were able to do so within financial resources available to them. The Audit Commission had indicated there was still some scope for saving by local authorities.

The Government had raised expenditure on benefits for the long term sick and disabled to £4 billion in 1984-85, more than 35 per cent higher in real terms than in 1978-79. The Government had improved the structure of benefits for disabled people.

The green paper proposals would be clearer and more comprehensible and avoid, as a routine matter, the sort of questioning about laundry needs and bathing habits which could occur at present. They would help those who were present but narrowly outside the qualifying criteria for mobility and attendance allowances. Those who qualified by incapacity would get a premium rate higher in real terms than in 1978-79. They had to wait a year before going on to the long-term rate.

The new system was likely to do more to help the 50,000 long-term sick and disabled claimants of practical assistance benefit who at present received no additional payments. An unemployed man with a disabled wife would receive the disability premium whereas at present he would receive none. That was a gross scale rate of benefit.

He could not give figures or percentages for new specific benefits until the details of the structure itself were settled, following consultation with local authorities. Significant numbers of disabled people were likely to gain. It was the Government's intention to make sure that, at the point of change in the system, there would be no interruption of cash benefits income support. He could not guarantee that all disabled people would be gainers and none would be losers in cash terms, but there would be full cash protection at the point of transition for those who might otherwise be losers.

He was conscious of the need to encourage disabled people to remain active to the maximum possible extent. The present rules could discourage them from earning more than £4 a week. The Government had in mind a new figure of £15.

It was the Government's aim to enable the system to contribute more effectively than it often did now through a sensible mix of cash and care for vulnerable groups within the community. It was their intention that these arrangements should be run by specialist staff handling a limited number of cases.

Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent South, Lab) said Mr Newton was trying to ride two horses at once. He was trying to defend the Government's savage cuts on local authorities and at the same time trying to claim that they were defending the rights of disabled people. The two were incompatible.

Cuts on local authorities severely damaged the living standards of disabled people.

One aim of the Act had been to make it easier for disabled people to get help with home repairs, and so on, but it had become a nightmare, a veritable grand national of obstacles to get help.

Local authorities varied a great deal in their attitudes to disabled people and Mr Newton was too sanguine about them when he said that they were the best judges. It was a generalisation which overlooked the fact that there were many negligent, lazy, selfish and stupid local authorities which did not care about disabled people.

Mr Michael Meadowcroft (Leeds West, L) said the lack of expense or reduction in the home help services was unjustified. It caused greater spending because it increased the need for people to be taken into nursing homes. Home help was one of the cheapest and most cost-effective services.

Mr Timothy Yee (South Suffolk, C) said there was a need for more non-intensive care facilities which could help prevent disabilities.

GP to repay £10,000

A general practitioner in Lancashire has been ordered to repay £10,000 for excessive prescribing of medicines. The money is to be recovered in instalments by reduced payments from the National Health Service.

The penalty was imposed after investigations by the

judges of local circumstances and the best placed to assess the needs of the individual. The Government had always been prepared to pursue inquiries where prima facie evidence suggested local authorities were in breach of their statutory duties.

Local authorities did face difficult choices, as did central Government itself, at a time of budgetary and financial constraint. Local authorities should continue to bear the burden of vulnerable groups in mind and the Government believed they were able to do so within financial resources available to them. The Audit Commission had indicated there was still some scope for saving by local authorities.

The Government had raised expenditure on benefits for the long term sick and disabled to £4 billion in 1984-85, more than 35 per cent higher in real terms than in 1978-79. The Government had improved the structure of benefits for disabled people.

The green paper proposals would be clearer and more comprehensible and avoid, as a routine matter, the sort of questioning about laundry needs and bathing habits which could occur at present. They would help those who were present but narrowly outside the qualifying criteria for mobility and attendance allowances. Those who qualified by incapacity would get a premium rate higher in real terms than in 1978-79. They had to wait a year before going on to the long-term rate.

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Clear message to insure against bereavement

Political dynamite in widow's benefit cuts

SOCIAL SECURITY REVIEW

Widow's benefit is one of the areas of the social security Green Paper where the Government could be accused of being not just cautious, but timorous.

Benefits to widows aged under 60 make few headlines. Yet they cost £800 million a year. Their value varies by age, whether there are children, how many and how independent they are.

The Government's proposals will give less childless widows, or those with grown-up children, aged under 55, slightly more to those with dependent children or aged over 55; and they will in time cut spending by about £25 million a year. They also carry the clear message that more people should insure against widowhood.

But while referring to changes in society that make widows only 15 per cent of single parents today, against the majority in the 1940s, the Green Paper ducks the issue of looking at single parents as a whole.

From the child's point of view, it makes little difference that income is reduced because its parent is single from choice, death, divorce or separation.

If playing around with pensions is political gunpowder, cutting widows' benefits must be the politician's definition of dynamite. In the second of a series of articles on the Government's review of social security, NICHOLAS TIMMINS, Social Services Correspondent, discusses the likely effects of its proposals for widows.

Yet widows will still be able to earn any amount without having their benefit cut.

Other single parents on income support or the new Family Credit, even under the Government's revisions, will still see benefit withdrawn as earnings rise. Widowers with children will still be far worse off financially than widows with children (no equal treatment there).

None of the Government's proposals will affect existing widows, or those widowed over age 60.

But in future widow's allowance, which goes to almost all widows for the first 26 weeks, will be replaced by a £1,000 lump sum.

Widowed mother's allowance, paid where there are dependent children aged under 19, will in future be paid from bereavement, not, as at present, after six months when widow's allowance runs out. The proposals together will cost slightly more, as the mother's allowance will be paid earlier.

Childless widows under 55 will be slightly worse off unless the £1,000 is made tax-free. If it is they will gain at standard rate tax about £80; if it is not they lose more than £200. A decision awaits the Government's tax Green Paper, which will also examine the rest of widow's tax allowances.

If the £1,000 is not indexed, however, the Government will rapidly accumulate savings in

distance coach services in 1980 have been reduced in real terms by 15 per cent since 1970. On some routes the actual fares are still lower than five years ago and these fare reductions explain the dramatic increase in business for long distance coaches.

Mr Frank Dobson (Holborn and St Pancras, Lab): The increase in passengers carried by express coach services is closely paralleled by the massive reduction in the number of passengers on rural services. Does Mr Spicer not agree that if the new Bill is passed, then people in the rural areas know what to expect?

Mr Spicer: The decline in rural bus services has been a long-term factor and that is precisely why we have

introduced the bill to bring back life into rural bus services. (Labour shouts of dissent.)

Mr Terence Higgins (Worthing, C): There is some concern that many coaches appear to be exceeding the 70 mph speed limit. As the tachograph does not provide an adequate means of checking will Mr Spicer consider installing some other device?

Mr Spicer: We must always be aware of the speed limit. There has been some signs of a greater compliance with speed limits and it is important for continued vigilance by the police. The Bus and Coach Council have issued their own code of practice and we hope the industry will comply with it.

But the 18-year-old in work, who could cheaply insure for it, will still receive a £1,000 lump sum from the State if her husband dies, while the children of parents who are single for reasons other than death remain worse off than the children of widows potentially do. Widowers' children, who face much the same problems as widows' children, gain nothing. A missed opportunity.

Tomorrow

'Supermarket for cars' runs into European sales dispute

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

A new car showroom widely advertised as the first in Britain to offer all makes of car instead of being tied to a single make was criticized last night by the Motor Agents Association as "a misleading nonsense".

Mr Philip Stein, the association's director of public relations, said: "If that was true, it would be driving a 10-ton truck through the EEC regulations which come into force on July 1 giving special recognition to the long-standing franchised system of selling cars."

"This is a company acting as an agent for motorists wishing to import a car in the hope of getting it cheaper. The new regulations specifically prohibit such an intermediary from buying and selling cars."

"They must restrict their activities to making the arrangements for a personal import. That means the buyer must collect the car on the Continent and drive it home, not buy it in a showroom here."

"Any suggestion that this is the forerunner of a chain of new car supermarkets is absurd."

The new showroom, owned by Inter-car (UK), will be formally opened in Wrexham on Saturday by Miss Beata Brookes, north Wales member of the European Parliament.

Yesterday Mr David Fletcher, the company's director and founder, denied that the claim to be the first multi-make car showroom was misleading.

"We can make arrangements for almost any make of car to be

purchased. The cars on show here have been bought commercially by us in Europe and will be sold for less than you would have to pay in Britain. But that is quite separate from the personal import scheme we also run here."

His publicity material claims: "We can generally offer our customer better savings than if they choose to go ahead by themselves as we have negotiated very large discounts from continental sources. At present savings can be as much as £5,400 on Mercedes 500 SEC and £1,000 on a smaller Metro."

It also suggests that customers can collect their new vehicles from the factory, for example Renaults from Paris, Volvos from Gothenburg or Amsterdams.

Mr Fletcher admitted this suggested that some manufacturers were prepared to sell direct to the customer in breach of their own zealously guarded franchise contracts. "Yes, but I had better bow out without going any further," he said.

Asked about 90 new cars said to be held in stock, he replied: "Most of them are on the Continent." He said Inter-car handled about 2,500 car purchases last year of which about 2,000 were personal imports.

Volvo UK denied that the factory was breaking its own franchise contracts with UK dealers by permitting buyers to by-pass them and collect direct from the factory.



Moderate Sikhs armed with staves ejecting a young militant from the Golden Temple rally.

Extremists disrupt rally by 15,000 Sikh moderates

Amritsar (AP) - Several people were injured when extremists disrupted a rally by an estimated 15,000 Sikh moderates at the Golden Temple despite the presence of more than 1,000 paramilitary troops and police.

The rally on Sunday commemorated the Sikhs killed a year ago when Indian Army troops attacked the heavily fortified complex to flush out extremists using it as a sanctuary and base for a terrorist campaign seeking

political and religious concessions from the Government.

Sikh moderates preparing for the rally set up a barbed-wire fence around the main temple hall and deployed about 700 volunteer guards armed with bamboo staves and knives. About 200 plainclothes police also were inside the complex.

The trouble began soon after arrival of three senior Sikhs, Harbans Singh Longowal, Gurmehar Singh Tobra and Parkash Singh Badal, who made their first joint appear-

ance at the temple since their release in March and April.

Radical youths shouting separatist slogans from the balcony threw leaflets calling them traitors.

Many people suffered injuries in the clashes that followed. WASHINGTON: Four Sikhs charged in alleged plots to kill the Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, attended a commando school in November in the southern US town of Dolansville, Alabama, to learn assassination techniques,

according to the school's proprietor (AP reports).

"They were very open with their politics and led us to believe they were going to do what they wanted to do in India," Mr Frank Camper, who operates the mercenary school, said in a newspaper interview.

Mr Gurmehar Singh Birk, described as leader of the group, has been indicted with two other Sikhs on charges of conspiring to murder Mr Gandhi, who arrives in the United States today.

Mexican visit aims at trade and investment boost

From John Carlin, Mexico City

President Miguel de la Madrid arrives in Britain today, returning a State visit to Mexico by the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh in February 1983.

According to Government officials, Señor De la Madrid's delegation will be aiming, primarily, to persuade Mrs Margaret Thatcher and her Cabinet colleagues that Mexico, having pulled back from the edge of economic disaster, now offers favourable conditions for an increase in bilateral trade and a reactivation of British investment.

President De la Madrid and his Cambridge-educated Foreign Minister, Señor Bernardo Sepúlveda, both made clear before leaving last week on a 20-day European tour that Central America would be high on their agenda.

They will seek support for the efforts of the four-nation Contadora group, of which Mexico is now the most active member, to find peaceful negotiated solutions to the area's conflicts.

According to the British Chamber of Commerce in Mexico, Britain is Mexico's second-largest foreign investor, a long way behind the United States, and its fifth trading partner.

Mexico, according to economists, urgently - some say desperately - needs to boost its non-oil exports (oil accounts for 70 per cent of its export income) and to expand foreign investment.

The alternative, which the Government appears to accept, is a stagnant economy perpetually reined in by a massive foreign debt. In the next five years Mexico must pay its international creditors \$60 billion in interest alone.

Mexico, one businessman explained, has a lot to offer the foreign investor: cheap labour, a large (78 million population) internal market, and, most attractive of all, the United States.

On the negative side, however, foreign businessmen have found that a tortuous government bureaucracy has often dampened their enthusiasm with investment schemes.

It should prove less difficult for Señor De la Madrid to convince Britain to collaborate in what a Mexican Government statement described as "joint efforts" to ensure "the principles of self-determination, peaceful coexistence and non-interference" prevail over "the use of physical or economic force" in international relations.

These are the Contadora principles - pointedly counter to US policy in Central America - which Britain and 11 other Western European nations formally accepted at a meeting of European and Latin American foreign ministers in San José, capital of Costa Rica, in October.

Democratic challenge, page 12
Leading article, 13

End of youth detention orders called for

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Detention centre orders should be abolished, Ms Vivian Stern, director of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said yesterday.

The Two custodial sentences for young offenders, detention centre and youth custody, should be merged instead into a single youth custody sentence, she suggested.

She was commenting on a Nacro briefing paper which says that, since the new youth custody sentences replaced borstal and prison sentences for young people in mid-1983, the use of detention centres has dropped sharply, in contrast with the trend of the previous 10 years.

From July 1983 to June 1984, 16 per cent fewer juveniles and 6 per cent fewer young adults went to detention centres than in 1982. Many boys who would formerly have entered detention

centres instead received youth custody sentences: 41 per cent more juveniles and 9 per cent more young adults received such sentences than went to borstal or prison in 1982.

Yet between 1973 and 1982, the number of juveniles aged 14 to 16 entering detention centres rose by 82 per cent and of young adults aged 17 to 20 by 51 per cent.

Ms Stern argues that it is absurd that some teenagers given youth custody sentences should have to serve them in overcrowded prisons and remand centres because youth custody centres are full, while there are unused places in detention centres.

If all custodial sentences for young people, however short, were sentences of youth custody, overcrowding in one part of the system could be relieved by using space places in another part.

£380,000 added to Pink Panther award

Miss Lynne Fredericks, the actress, is to be paid an additional £380,000 on her \$1 million High Court award over the Pink Panther film that should never have been made.

Yesterday, Mr Justice Hobbhouse, who last month made the award to Miss Fredericks, aged 30, the widow of Peter Sellers, said that interest should run from July 1982, adding an additional £320,000 to the total.

The action arose over the making of the film *Trail of the Pink Panther*. Mr Blake Edwards, the film director, and United Artists, made the film in early 1982 from clips and discarded pieces of old film.

Miss Fredericks, the fourth wife of Mr Sellers, will also get an additional estimated £60,000 for the use of clips from the films *The Pink Panther Strikes Again* and *Revenge of the Pink Panther*.

Children get video warning of sex danger

A video designed to alert children and parents to the dangers, and possible prevention, of child sex abuse was launched yesterday.

The film uses cartoon characters such as the Smurfs, the Flintstones and Yogi Berra, and well-known television faces, to teach children how to avoid being molested and abducted. It was researched by the Rev Brian Brown and staff of the Television Research Unit at Oxford Polytechnic, with professional advice from Mr David Pithers, director of the Centre for Study and Development of Child Care at the National Children's Home.

Mr Pithers, who has been investigating child abuse cases for the past 20 years, estimates that one in five children experiences sexual abuse before the age of 16.

Strong Kids, Safe Kids (CIC Video, £9.99).

London centre sites show high lead levels

By David Nicholson-Lord

A survey of lead in air and dust at 15 sites near busy roads in London has disclosed levels consistently above safety guidelines laid down by the Greater London Council.

In three places they were above EEC standards. Fleet Street, with its concentration of printworks, was among the worst offenders.

But a study of fruit and vegetables grown on allotments and gardens in the capital has proved more reassuring. Only 29 out of 1,000 samples, or 3 per cent, breached the legal standards for food sold in shops. Nineteen of the 29 were lettuce and blackberries.

An annual mean limit of two micrograms per cubic metre for airborne lead concentrations is recommended in an EEC directive as well as in the report of a Department of Health and Social Security working party. The GLC guideline, based on exposure to lead in dust as well as air, is expressed as a joint standard of one microgram per cubic metre in air and 500 micrograms of lead per gram of dust, taken together.

The survey was designed by the air pollution group of the GLC's scientific services

branch to be typical of London as a whole, not just the city centre. Several roads carrying more than 60,000 vehicles a day were selected as well as shopping centres which behave like "canyons", trapping vehicle exhausts.

The guidelines were breached at all 15 sites and at three of them the EEC limit was exceeded. The three were Telford Road in Hammer-smith (3.9 micrograms), Malden Way, Kingston (2.1) and Greenwich High Road (2.0).

Other high airborne lead levels were at Holloway Road, Islington (1.9), Fleet Street (1.8), Clarence Street, Kingston, and High Street North, Newham (both 1.7).

Highest dust concentrations were at Fleet Street (5,180 micrograms), Westway in Westminster (3,400), Telford Road (3,380), Orchard Street, Westminster (3,340), and Holloway Road, Islington (3,240).

The high lead content of Fleet Street dust was caused by newspaper printworks, the scientists say. Efforts are being made to reduce that.

Source: *London Environmental Bulletin*, spring 1985, vol 2, No 4.

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The Star Wars controversy

Sceptics threaten budget cuts

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan faces a tough battle in Congress to save his Strategic Defence Initiative (Star Wars) from further substantial budget cuts.

There appears a deepening mood of scepticism on Capitol Hill about Mr Reagan's claims that the multi-billion dollar research programme could lead to the deployment of space weapons capable of making nuclear missiles obsolete.

The project was dealt a financial blow last week by the senate, which during deliberations on the 1976 Defence Authorization Bill, reduced his SDI budget request from \$3.72 billion (£2.95 bn) to \$2.97 billion.

The Democrat-controlled House of Representatives, which will vote this month, will

consider several amendments to reduce it further.

When Mr Reagan announced the SDI in March 1983, the broad aim was to make it a £26 billion five-year programme ending in 1990. That timetable has slipped at least a year and perhaps more as a result of a Congressional decision last year to provide only \$1.4 billion in the 1985 Budget - 21 per cent less than requested.

Senator John Warner, a Virginia Republican and chairman of the armed services strategic sub-committee, said that what saved the SDI from further Senate cuts was "a sense of obligation to support our negotiations" at the arms control talks with the Soviet Union in Geneva.

SDI supporters are far from

confident that the house will be impressed by that argument. They note that it reduced substantially Mr Reagan's MX missile programme in the face of similar pleas.

Senator Sam Nunn, the senior Democrat on the armed services committee, said the Administration would not be able to keep Congress and the public sold on the SDI unless it produced a more defensible definition of what it was designed to accomplish.

The Reagan definition was so broad and ambitious that unlimited money could be spent without achieving any specific objective, he said. "I don't know a single scientist in the country who agrees with the President's definition of the programme."

Senator Bennett Johnston, a Louisiana Democrat, appeared to touch the mood of a large segment of Congress on the floor of the Senate last week during which he challenged: "Is there anybody who will get up on this floor and say the President was right, that we have any possibility of making nuclear weapons obsolete? Of course not."

He added: "The truth of the matter is we do not know what Star Wars is. It is a whole collection of technologies that we are going to be chasing out there."

"There is only one thing sure and that is if we do eventually find it... it is going to violate the ABM (anti ballistic missile) treaty and put us into a new space race with the Russians."



Mr David Lane, the new British Ambassador to the Holy See, presenting his credentials to the Pope at a ceremony in the papal studio of the Apostolic Palace.

Zimbabwe extends candidate deadlines

From Jan Raath Harare

A presidential order issued yesterday has extended the deadline for the nomination of candidates in Zimbabwe's elections by a day and a half. The original deadline was for midday yesterday.

Dr Eddison Zvobgo, the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, said at a press conference that the Government had decided to extend the time allowed on the advice of the Electoral Supervisory Commission after opposition parties complained that they would not be able to meet the deadline.

On Saturday the Supreme Court rejected an appeal by Zapu, the opposition party of Mr Joshua Nkomo, for the proclamation setting a nomination day to be declared ultra vires on the ground that it was unreasonable to expect parties to complete the nomination formalities in time.

Yesterday Dr Zvobgo said the extension had been ordered because the Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, felt that the Government should "bend over backwards to ensure to all concerned that the Government truly wants... to have a free and fair election", despite the Supreme Court's decision.

Accordingly, parties have been given until 5pm today to lodge their nominations. Yet it became apparent that the decision would have become necessary anyway.

By 1pm yesterday, officials at the nomination court for black candidates (whose election is on July 1 and 2) said they had processed only 22 of the 70 nominations Zapu had lodged and two of the United African National Council of the former prime minister Bishop Abel Muzorewa.

Scores of candidates and officials of the Registrar-General's office jostled around trestle tables laden with already well-thumbed computer printouts containing the voters' rolls, checking that the signatories to the nomination papers were correctly enrolled in the constituency the candidates intended to contest.

It was a tedious process. One Zapu candidate had been waiting 30 minutes for his list of signatories to be ratified. The checking was not always satisfactory the first time round, requiring a second search in the rolls.

Heated arguments between officials and candidates interrupted by police, frequently broke above the general hubbub.

"They would obviously not have been able to complete the business in three hours (the nomination court was originally set to start at 10am and close at 1pm)," said Mr John Nkomo, Zapu's publicity secretary.

Kremlin says it will not try to match US

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The Soviet Union has decided not to try to match the Star Wars programme for space-based anti-missile defences, properly known as the Strategic Defence Initiative, according to a Soviet military spokesman.

General Nikolai Chervov said in an interview in Moscow with two *Washington Post* journalists that Russia would concentrate instead on "cheaper weapons" designed to penetrate and "overwhelm any space umbrella" the US was able to devise.

"We are not going to take the path the American administration is trying to force us on to," General Chervov said. Moscow would not ape the US by spending billions on space weaponry.

The general, who is a head of department in the Soviet general staff, is not thought to be a key decision maker, but his views usually reflect current Soviet thinking.

He often acts as spokesman for the military in dealings with the Western media and Western academics.

Although he emphasized that his *Washington Post* interview contained his "personal" views there is no doubt that he was spelling out what leading Soviet military figures such as Marshal Sergei Sokolov, the Defence Minister, have hinted at.

Last month Marshal Sokolov made a rare admission that Moscow was conducting military research in space but

insisted it was for peaceful purposes only. The Kremlin denies Western reports that Russia has long had its own Star Wars type research programme.

General Chervov said Russia was not afraid of an American technological breakthrough it could not match, as many Western experts have suggested. America had suggested at the Geneva arms talks that the two superpowers agree on "rules of conduct" for the arms race in space, but the Soviet aim was a complete ban on all space weapons.

The *Washington Post* reporters said General Chervov indicated the Russians had concluded that the arms control process of the past two decades was "on the verge of collapse".

However, he reiterated Mr Gorbachev's proposal for a 25 per cent cut in intercontinental ballistic missiles in exchange for abandonment of Star Wars and the Soviet leader's moratorium on SS20 deployments until November.

General Chervov said that if America responded to the moratorium Russia would put detailed proposals on the table.

The purpose of General Chervov's interview appeared to be to persuade Western opinion that Russia is not - as the US claims - engaged in research and development of space weapons, and to convey the impression that the Reagan Administration's investment in SDI will prove a costly irrelevance.

Fortress America sentiment growing

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

A new opinion poll has provided fresh evidence of the rise in protectionist sentiment in the United States.

The poll, carried out by *The New York Times* and CBS News, shows that most Americans believe that foreign trade costs jobs in the US and favours restrictions on imports, even if it means less choice of products. The poll was taken soon after last month's economic summit

in Bonn, at which the US failed to get agreement on a date for a new round of trade talks early next year. It also came just a few days after the Government reported a record trade deficit of \$11.35 billion (£9 billion) for April.

The poll found that 70 per cent of Americans thought trade restrictions were a good idea, while only 21 per cent did not. Not surprisingly, protectionist

sentiment was strongest in the industrial mid-West: 75 per cent of those living in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin blamed foreign trade for heavy job losses there.

The poll findings are likely to swell the protectionist sentiment that has been building up in Congress over the past few months.

Japan and Mexico were identified as the chief culprits.

Falklands pledge by Argentina

Buenos Aires (Reuters) - Argentina said yesterday it would preserve the lifestyle of the Falkland Islanders if an agreement was reached with Britain on the disputed territory.

Argentina fervently wishes to reach an agreement satisfactory to both parties, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement reported by the semi-official news agency Telam. "It is willing to offer the residents of the islands the appropriate safeguards and guarantees for the protection of their interests and their lifestyle."

Today is a public holiday in Argentina to commemorate its governorship of the Falklands, set up in 1829. Britain took the islands in 1833.

The statement repeated earlier criticism of Britain's opening of a new runway in the islands, saying it posed a strategic threat to the entire region.

Fear of peninsular integration

Portugal faces future with pessimism

In the second of two articles on the implications for Spain and Portugal of joining the EEC, Richard Wigg writes from Lisbon, where the accession treaty is due to be signed tomorrow.

A British company manufacturing domestic products has two factories in Spain's Basque country and another in Portugal. "After entry, as tariff barriers come down, we can rationalize, importing either from France or Spain. But the priority for investing would be Spain," says Mr Robert Symington, head of Reckitt & Colman's operations in Portugal.

Spain's population has a much higher purchasing power than that of little Portugal. The end of the eight-year entry negotiations has produced no euphoria in Lisbon but rather pessimism; it is feared that the Common Market will imply peninsular integration. After centuries of striving against Spanish hegemony, many Portuguese now see their national identity menaced by Spanish economic penetration.

Their 750-mile common frontier is West Europe's most undeveloped area. It has been kept so far political as much as economic reasons.

Portugal, confined by its 1972 treaty with the EEC to dismantle compared with Spain, a relative industrial giant with a trade balance last year two to one in its favour. With a productivity rating only half that of Spain, Portugal's small and under-capitalized industries feel threatened, particularly those competing directly with Spaniards in such areas as electrical goods and chemicals.

Spain in effect chose to offer Portugal fishing in return for industry in tough negotiations toward a bilateral trade framework for the transition period after entry.

Portugal's best EEC industrial opportunities lie in textiles last year it exported 2900 million worldwide. Spain agreed reluctantly to retain for Portugal the treatment the 10 present EEC members give it on textiles, but with temporary restrictions to protect the Catalan industry.

Importing half of its food requirements, and with 28 per cent of the working population in agriculture contributing only 14 per cent of the Gross National Product, Portugal will for five years after entry be allowed to regulate its farming policy. It will receive EEC aid of \$500 million to modernise agriculture.

The country had no modern roads into Europe, and the European Investment Bank is already helping with the construction of north-south and west-east motorways to Spain.

"How can we expect to place our 120 different brands of port wine abroad?" a former Portuguese asked the other day. The cultural shock of joining will be as great as the economic challenge for Portugal.

Writing last month in *Expresso* the Lisbon weekly a Portuguese judge warned his countrymen. "We are going to have to compete alongside the 'poor people of Europe', were everything is planned, disciplined and then seriously carried out."

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Walesa denies strike plot and seeks release of dissidents

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw

Mr Lech Walesa, proudly wearing a Solidarity T-shirt, yesterday urged a Polish court to release three of his dissident colleagues and stressed they were not part of a secret conspiracy to spread strikes in Poland.

The Solidarity chairman was testifying in the Gdansk trial of the historian Adam Michnik, and Solidarity organizers Wladyslaw Frasyniuk and Bogdan Lis, who are accused of inciting public unrest and of occupying leading positions in the banned Solidarity union. They have pleaded not guilty but face jail terms of up to five years if convicted.

The main judge, Mr Krzysztof Ziemiński, asked Mr Walesa about the meeting of seven Solidarity activists on February 13, raided by police, in which the three defendants were arrested.

"I told the court," said Mr Walesa after testifying, "that three innocent people were sitting in the dock. There is no civilized country in the world in which one is unable to meet with one's friends."

Mr Walesa testified that the meeting was held on his initiative and that it was in no sense a conspiracy, only a private, social gathering to talk about current events.

"I have nothing to hide about the meeting," he told reporters yesterday, because the meeting was not secret and those who took part in it were not hiding when they came to the flat.

Mr Walesa testified for 50 minutes and was clearly anticipating a tough fight with the judge. As he walked jauntily to the court he wore his T-shirt marked "L'Homme de Fer" (Man of Iron) and "Solidarnosc" - rather as if it were a team jersey in a particularly vindictive rugby league match.

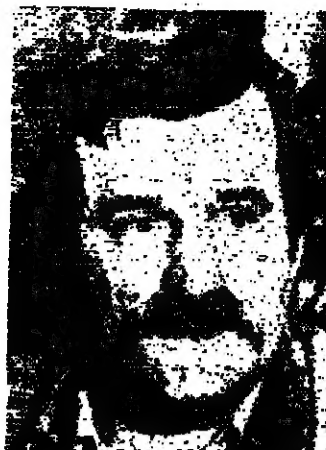
However the judge reserved his harshness for Mr Michnik. As Mr Walesa left the courtroom, the historian shouted out: "Don't worry Lech, Solidarity will win anyway." Mr Michnik was promptly expelled from the court, the fourth expulsion in the trial so far.

A Ministry of Justice spokesman, Mr Zenon Jankowski, yesterday tried to refute each one of Mr Michnik's complaints about the conduct of the trial. The court, he said, had a perfect right to exclude foreign journalists and outside observers, the defendants had been allowed frequent contacts with their lawyers and defence counsel questioning about the legal expertise of the main judge was a breach of the lawyers' gentlemen's code.

A Polish-style catch-22 emerged from the Justice Ministry conference: judges, said Mr Jankowski, would take into account the objective reporting of the political trials before allowing foreign reporters into the courtroom. But reporters would not be allowed into the Gdansk courtroom because they were not objective.

After Mr Walesa's testimony yesterday two police experts were called to testify on the authenticity of a tape-recording of a conversation between Mr Lis and two secret police officers.

They said, contrary to the claims of the defendants, that the tape was an original recording and had not been tampered with.



Mr Walesa: "Nothing to hide"

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Mr Wu Xueqian and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Foreign Ministers of China and West Germany respectively, signing an economic co-operation agreement in Bonn yesterday, as Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister, and Chancellor Kohl (centre) look on.

Ex-Marine hunted over sex torture

San Francisco (Reuters) - Police are hunting for Charles Ng, aged 24, a former Marine whose cabin near here was found to contain human remains and a "sexual torture chamber". He is suspected of being linked to the disappearance of up to 25 people and has been charged with kidnapping and false imprisonment.

His companion, Leonard

Lake, aged 39, committed suicide on Thursday while in custody during a shoplifting investigation.

Police searching the isolated cabin he shared with Ng found two bodies and parts of four more. They have recovered 50 bags of splintered human bones and some lurid videotapes.

Police sources said the "sex

prison" bunker contained two secret chambers, two beds and a one-way mirror. One videotape showed Lake and Ng tearing at the clothes of a woman handcuffed to a chair.

A police spokesman said: "A number of people whose lives have sometimes been touched by Lake or Ng are missing. We are talking about up to 25 people."

Sri Lankan army eases up as truce hopes grow

From a Correspondent
Colombo

The Army in Sri Lanka's troubled northern province has virtually been confined to barracks on orders from Colombo.

A senior officer told *The Times* that orders to suspend all anti-guerrilla operations which involved search and arrest of suspects and cordoning off of areas had been sent to the commander in Jaffna, where much of the fighting has taken place.

The order has come at a time when there is optimism about arranging a ceasefire between the Government and the separatist fighters, after the recent summit between President Jayewardene and the Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. One of the main points in the joint communiqué was that in order to find a solution, violence must cease.

In Jaffna, reports indicate that youths who were openly carrying guns are not seen any more on the streets and no incidents have been reported during the last week.

In another development, senior members of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), including three former MPs, two ex-mayors and the former chairman of the district development council met in Jaffna after nearly two years to explore how TULF's machinery in the villages could be reactivated.

Deng makes 1 million troop cut official

Peking (Reuters) - Mr Deng Xiaoping, China's leader, has formally announced that the country's four-million strong armed forces will be cut by a million men over a period of two years, the New China news agency said yesterday.

Mr Deng, as the Supreme Commander of the People's Liberation Army, gave the news to a specially enlarged meeting of the Central Military Commission last week.

The news was first released by the Communist Party's Secretary-General, Mr Hu Yaobang, during a trip to New Zealand in April. Mr Hu's announcement came as a shock to most foreign military attaches who expected some cuts but not quite such a drastic reduction.

However, Mr Deng later indicated that Mr Hu was correct and last week's meeting underlined his serious intention. He made clear to the officers that the cuts were to save money for the country's civilian modernization effort. The forces could only be strengthened after China achieved a firmer economic base.

Mr Deng has put the armed forces last in his list of development priorities. The Army has not only been a drain on the nation's treasury but has been seen by Western diplomats as a surviving holdout of leftist sympathy, and therefore opposed to Mr Deng's reforms.

Ottawa fails to end human rights rift

From John Best, Ottawa

The first human rights conference under the 1975 Helsinki Final Act is nearing its closing stage this week amid uncertainty as to what it is likely to achieve.

The wide gulf that separates Western and Soviet bloc delegations is well illustrated by the 46 separate proposals which have been placed before the 35-nation conference, and which have to be dealt with before it ends on June 17.

A proposal submitted by the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, East Germany and Hungary, for instance, calls for an essentially non-interventionist approach.

It asserts that transferring "ideological differences" over human rights into the area of inter-state relations would inevitably "harden" the international situation, and calls instead for "cooperation" in the rights domain.

This cooperation must conform to the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of states.

There seems to be no chance of this proposal being adopted as it stands, since the West holds that the Helsinki Act implicitly gives the signatories

wide scope for examining compliance by other states with the human rights and other provisions.

The conference moves on the basis of consensus, meaning that each participant had a veto over its decisions.

Similarly, it is hard to conceive of the Soviet bloc allowing a series of propositions advanced by Western states to be adopted. One of these, aimed by inference at the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, calls for the removal of obstacles against monitoring the implementation of the Final Act.

Another calls on participating states to respect the "fundamental right of freedom of movement in all its aspects."

Still another, urges that individuals be protected from psychiatric practices which violate human rights, a motion aimed at the Soviet Union, which often deals with dissidents by consigning them to psychiatric institutions.

Finding a way to deal with these and other contentious motions, presents a formidable challenge to the conference.

Leading article, page 13

Denktas promises hard line

From Rasit Gurdilek
Ankara

Mr Rauf Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader, who was elected president of the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" with an overwhelming majority on the weekend, said Turkish Cypriots would never accept terms that might weaken their situation, at any future talks for a federal republic.

Mr Denktas received just under 70 per cent of the votes, trouncing left-wing rivals. The voter turnout was reported to be above 80 per cent.

Addressing a crowd in Nicosia after his election was assured, Mr Denktas pledged that "no one will be able to impose on you an agreement which is inadmissible, which takes away your rights, leaves your security vulnerable to threats and does away with guarantees of the motherland."

In an interview on state radio yesterday, Mr Denktas said the result was a public vote of confidence in his administration's policies on Cyprus.

Referring to the reported agreement of President Kyprianou, the Greek Cypriot leader to an "alternative formula" for a federal settlement, Mr Denktas said he had "no knowledge of a new package."

Mr Denktas did not rule out the possibility of new peace talks but reiterated that they could start only after general elections in the north set for June 23.

Invitation to a day of music

From Diana Geddes
Paris

M Jack Lang, the French Minister of Culture, called yesterday on musicians and music-lovers throughout Europe to join him in celebrating Friday, June 21, the first day of summer, as a great "Fête de la Musique".

Britain is one of 19 countries which have agreed this year to participate in the celebrations first launched by M Lang in 1982. The idea has enjoyed a huge success here, and last year some six million amateurs and professionals came out onto the streets to "make music".

This year, more than 1,000 musical events, classical, jazz and pop, have been organized in churches and hospitals, prisons and museums, squares and parks, concert halls and cafes throughout the country.

But perhaps more important than the planned events will be, as in previous years, the millions of impromptu performances given on street corners by anyone who feels capable.

Not everyone is so enchanted with the idea, however. For some people, whatever the Socialists do must automatically be bad. As M Jacques Medecin, the outspoken Gaullist Mayor of Nice, commented sourly: "For me, the Fête de la Musique is simply a political gimmick which has nothing to do with any policy for music."

access to the proceedings of the council, which this year will have elected representatives for the first time.

Officials claim the Bill should go through as soon as possible, in order to protect the newly elected members of the council when they take their seats later this year.

Mr Brian Tisdall, president of the Law Society, queried the reasons for the Government's espousal of the Bill.

The Hong Kong Law Society and other representatives of the legal community yesterday held a press conference here to protest against the impending passage of a controversial Government Bill on the powers and privileges of the local legislature.

The Bill makes it a criminal offence for anyone to criticize the words of a member of the Legislative Council "with intentional disrespect." It also limits the general public's freedom of

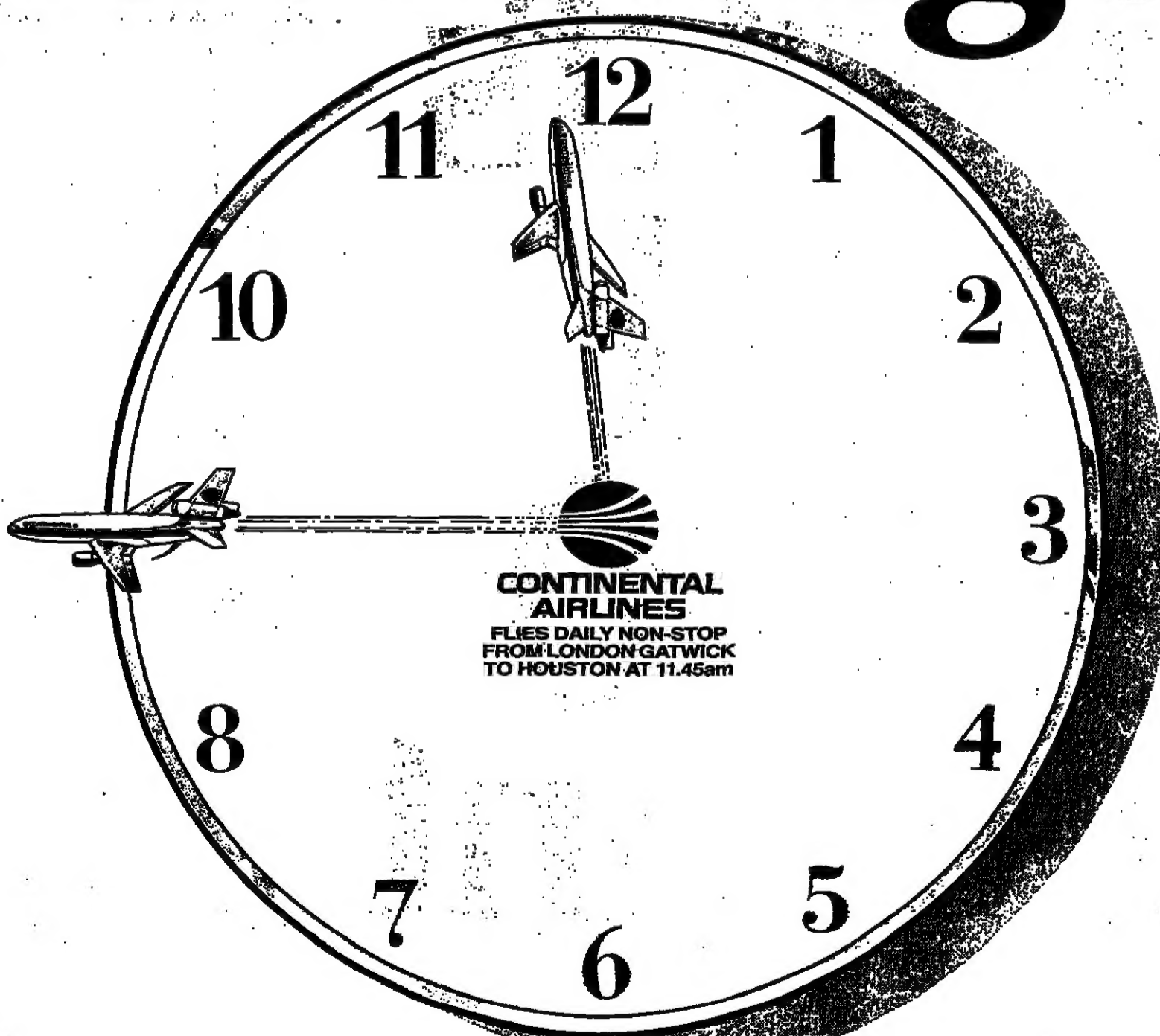
Lawyers try to throw out Hong Kong Bill

From David Bonavia, Hong Kong

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Gunmen kidnap British-born professor in west Beirut

From Richard Dowden, Beirut

Gunmen kidnapped another American in west Beirut on Sunday night sending a shiver through the expatriate community here.

The seizure of British-born Professor Thomas Sutherland, aged 53, the dean of the agriculture faculty at the American University of Beirut, brings the number of foreigners missing since March last year to 12. Seven of them are American, four are French and one is British.

No one has yet claimed responsibility for yesterday's kidnapping. The gunmen, about six in number, attacked at Professor Sutherland left the airport on his way back to the university after a three-week absence in America.

They shot at the tyres of his car and shattered the windows, showering him and his driver with glass, but there was no indication that he had been

hurt. Then they bundled him into one of their two cars. He was in the car belonging to the principal of the university, Mr Calvin Plimpton, and there has been speculation that the gunmen were looking for Mr Plimpton.

Professor Sutherland, born in Scotland and educated at Glasgow University, has worked at the university for two years. He is married with three daughters and was returning from his home in Colorado. He was travelling through the Shia-controlled area of south Beirut when the incident happened.

Mr Rafwan Mawli, the university spokesman, said that senior university officials were usually accompanied by bodyguards but Professor Sutherland never felt frightened and did not ask for guards.

Mr Mawli said that he had returned to the university to supervise the final exams and prepare for the summer term. He appealed to his captors to release him.

The shadowy group Islamic Jihad has claimed responsibility for seven of the kidnappings, producing photographs of five Americans and two Frenchmen. They are demanding the release of 17 people convicted of the bombings of the French and American embassies in Kuwait in 1983.

The fate of Mr Alec Collett, a British journalist working for Unwra remains a mystery, as does the motive for the murder of Mr Denis Hill, another British teacher at the university whose bullet-ridden body was found near the university last month.



Thomas Sutherland: Born in Scotland

Gandhi and Paris part as friends

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, left Paris for Algeria yesterday morning after a successful four-day official visit which confirmed the political reconciliation between India and France after February's spy scandal and brought closer economic and industrial co-operation.

President Mitterrand, who met Mr Gandhi on no less than five occasions, said in an interview on Indian television that "the misunderstandings or difficulties have been overcome, and the prospects for the future leave me full of optimism."

The concrete results of the visit were not particularly spectacular: an important contract was signed with the French company Jeumont-Schneider for Indian telecommunications companies to construct under

licence telephone exchanges worth 300 million francs (£42 million); another contract was signed for the use of French technology in cleaning up the Ganges; and an agreement was signed setting up a Franco-Indian centre for advanced research in four areas: bio-technology, applied mathematics, optical physics and opto-electronics.

● **DELHI:** British hopes of making some significant sales of defence items to India rose slightly yesterday after the announcement was made that the Indian Defence Minister, Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao would visit London today (Michael Hamlyn writes).

Mr Narasimha Rao will meet Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, for two hours this morning.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Jordan Hashim Gharaibeh

By Caroline Moorehead

In 1978, when Hashim Gharaibeh became an adopted Amnesty International prisoner of conscience, he was a 30-year-old student and part-time government employee. He was arrested in March of that year for alleged membership of the Jordanian Communist Party and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment by the military court of Amman.

It is virtually impossible to set up a political party in Jordan. A number of laws, passed in the 1950s, regulate all political activity. In particular, Law No. 91 prohibits a Communist Party and specifies that any communist activity may be punishable by imprisonment with hard labour for as long as 15 years.

In reply to letters from Amnesty members, the Jordanian Government has said that Hashim Gharaibeh violated the anti-communist law through "his subversive activities among the student body of the University of Yarmouk".

In April, 1984, Gharaibeh was one of several dozen political prisoners who went on hunger strike in protest at prison conditions in al-Mahatta prison in Amman. Earlier this year he was transferred to Maan prison in the south. During his seven years in detention he has written several plays.



Mr Gharaibeh: Writing plays in prison

Interstate banking in US agreed

From Michael Binyon, Washington

United States banks, long held back from expansion by laws restricting them to a single state, have been given the go-ahead to form regional groupings which could lead to an important restructuring of the entire banking system that seems strangely antiquated by European standards.

The Supreme Court yesterday unanimously upheld new laws in Massachusetts and Connecticut which allow banks to merge with others anywhere in New England. Such regional consortia have also been approved in the south-east and are under consideration elsewhere. Under the new laws, Americans travelling to a different state would be able for the first time to cash cheques drawn on their home state bank.

To prevent themselves being swallowed up, the new banking consortia will be able to exclude the big banks with headquarters in New York, Texas and California. The new laws allow mergers within designated regions but ban all others.

Laws forbidding interstate banking were passed as a result of fears in the last century of the vast economic power that banking monopolies could wield, and have led to the proliferation of thousands of small banks.

Obote opponent seeks British support

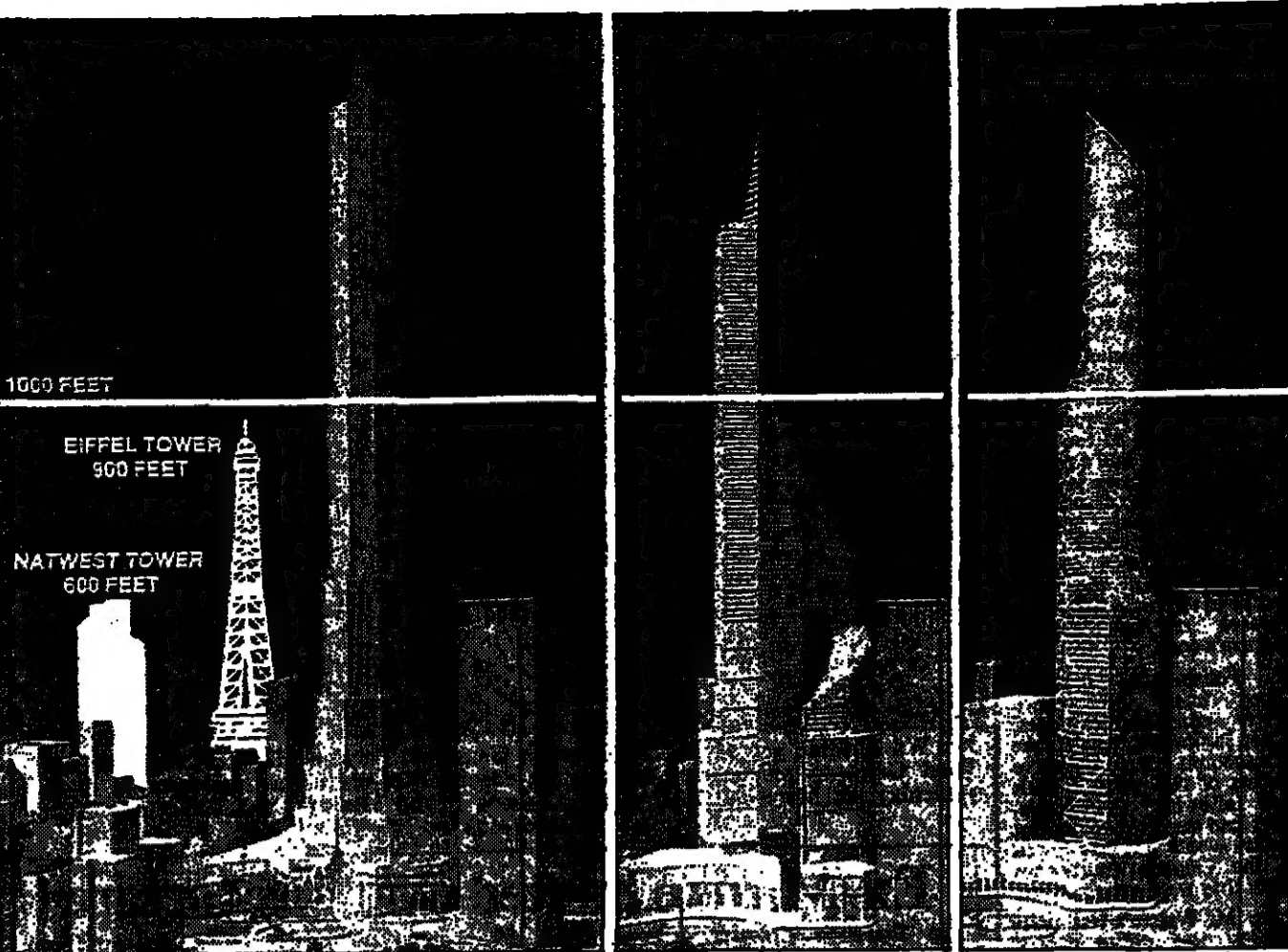
By William Pike

The Ugandan opposition leader, Mr Paul Ssemogerere, has flown to London to plead for British support in preserving democracy in his country.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State in the Foreign Office, is meeting Mr Ssemogerere, the president of the Democratic Party, today.

"Time is running out", Mr Ssemogerere said in an interview here. "It is not a question of saving the Democratic Party. It is a question of saving the country."

He is seeking in particular British assistance in ensuring that parliamentary elections, scheduled for December 1985, are free and fair.



Models show the proposals for the world's tallest building: the rocket design of 137 storeys (left), a building with a stepped spiral terrace and a steel lattice structure (right).

Three buildings bidding to scrape the highest sky over New York

By Charles Kneivitt, Architecture Correspondent

New York is renewing its bid to become the home of the world's tallest skyscraper, a distinction lost to Chicago when the 110-storey Sears Tower opened there, its 1,454ft topping the World Trade Centre by 160ft.

Three proposals are being examined for the tallest building out of 14 entered by developers for the five-acre Coliseum site in New York.

The tallest is the 137-storey design by Eli Attia & Associates for the developer Donald Trump, who is also entering the third tallest design by Manly-Jahn of Chicago, which has

135-storeys. The cost of reaching the sky is likely to be more than \$1,000 million.

A committee of four is studying the schemes for the site, which overlooks Central Park. The Coliseum itself, an exhibition centre, a 26-storey office block and an underground garage on the site would all have to go in most of the schemes submitted.

The Mayor of New York, Mr Ed Koch, described the Attia design as "something out of Flash Gordon". It would include an eight-storey atrium and restaurant and an observation deck.

A slender tower with wicker-like steel framework, by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, architects of the Sears Tower, is the second tallest design, and is backed by Sam LeFrak in partnership with the Calbreath-Rifkin Organisation.

Several bids for the site have exceeded \$300 million itself a new record of Manhattan real estate. In 1953 it was sold for just \$2 million.

When the site is redeveloped it is expected to realise at least \$400 million a year in property taxes. With cash from the sale of the site, this amount will be

used to improve public transport in the city.

Models of more than 20 skyscrapers by the New York firm of Kohn Pedersen Fox are featured in an exhibition at the Royal Institute of British Architects which opened yesterday.

It demonstrates how American architects have in recent years rejected the "flat-top" image of their immediate predecessors by introducing Gothic, Art Deco and Post-Modern features to enliven otherwise dull facades and rooftops. The exhibition closes on July 9.

Architects win EEC work permit

From Ian Murray, Luxembourg

One of the European Community's longest running, record-breaking negotiating sagas came to an end here last night with an agreement that architects trained in one EEC country could set up a practice in any other EEC country.

The proposal, first went down on the table in 1967, when the ideals of the founding fathers were still relatively fresh. As statesmen went about building the new Europe it was symbolically obvious that there was a need for architects to plan it.

From the beginning there were problems because nobody could agree exactly what qualifications were required for an individual to practise as an architect. The West Germans were particularly suspect because they spent only three years learning the trade, compared with the five year minimum everywhere else.

Things got no better when Britain, Denmark and Ireland joined in 1973. Quinine plans gathered dust on shelves with only the Italians showing any real enthusiasm for making progress during the short periods they held the EEC presidential chair.

The Greeks, who historically knew a thing or two about architecture, further complicated matters when they joined in 1981 because they wanted to include civil engineers in the same category. The argument dragged on.

This year, with the Italians back in the chair, work on the dossier began again in earnest. The West Germans began to compromise.

Yesterday, when the internal market council met, Lord Cockfield, the commissioner responsible, did a traditionally unorthodox thing and called for a vote to be held.

So a compromise was reached.

The final directive runs to 38 pages and there is to be two-year period for setting up the necessary mechanisms before the directive comes into effect.

Contradiction in \$3bn aid 150 million at risk in Africa's famine

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

Famine in Africa has attracted unprecedented aid expected to reach \$3 billion by the end of the year, yet global starvation has never looked worse, Mr Eugene Whelan, Canadian president of the United Nations World Food Council, told the council's eleventh ministerial meeting in Paris yesterday.

Some 150 million people are now threatened by the food crisis in Africa, with 34 million severely at risk including nearly eight million in Ethiopia, he said.

"We are living in the midst of the greatest contradiction in our time... I, for one, find it appalling in 1985 to be living side by side by preventable death." The single most important task for the World Food Council in the years ahead is to maintain the confidence that hunger can be eradicated.

Mr Whelan shared the view of Mr Edouard Saouma, director-general of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, who said that the most urgent problems were to ensure delivery - only half the foodstuffs had reached their destinations - and to solve transport problems.

They are regarded as licensed spying. The American major, Arthur Nicholson, was on one when he was shot dead 10 weeks ago.

It was emphasized by the British yesterday that their patrols are continuing normally. Harassment by the Russians is a normal part of them. But ramming, and detention of a British patrol at gunpoint, as happened last week, are not.

British sources said it remained to be seen whether, coming after the Nicholson incident, it indicated a more aggressive Soviet attitude towards the patrols.

Two weeks Mr Sebastian Seeburgway, a DP member of parliament, was abducted by the Army and has not been seen since. He is presumed dead. Two other DP members have been killed since 1980 and numerous officials and supporters of the DP have been harassed, detained or killed.

Mr Ssemogerere wants Western countries, in particular Britain, to "force a solution" before the elections take place. Britain itself could exert considerable leverage its former colony through its close relationship with President Obote, he believes.

More towns blitzed in Gulf air war

Baghdad (AFP) - Iraqi planes bombed five Iranian towns and a military camp and "totally destroyed" a radar station in a wave of attacks, a military spokesman said here.

The statement came just before a strong explosion was heard in the Iraqi capital, which residents believed caused by an Iranian missile. (The Iranian news agency said a missile strike had been launched on Baghdad).

The Iraqi spokesman said 19 fighter-bombers attacked Abadan in the south and Ilam and Arzaku-Malekshahi in the centre-west of Iran. Hamadan, Bawah and a military camp at Robat were also hit.

East Germans welcome Fabius

East Berlin (Reuters) - The French Prime Minister, Mr Laurent Fabius, arrived here on a two-day visit that could boost trade between France and East Germany.

Mr Fabius, welcomed at Schönefeld airport with full military honours, spent nearly two hours in talks with Herr Erich Honecker which included East-West arms negotiations. He is the first head of government from the wartime Western allies to go to East Germany.

Mile bridge links Japan islands

The longest bridge in the East just under a mile, now links two of Japan's smaller islands - Shikoku, in the inland sea, and Awaji (David Watts writes). It is hoped that a second bridge will link Awaji and the main island of Honshu, but this has been held up for lack of funds. Once this final bridge is built, all the Japanese islands will be linked.

During the bridge-opening ceremony, a light plane performing aerobatics plunged into the Naruto channel near the bridge and the pilot, an Osaka businessman, was killed.

Refugees return

Bangkok (AFP) - Thailand will soon begin repatriating 230,000 Cambodian refugees, forced across the border during Vietnam's dry season offensive against resistance camps, Mr Prasong Soonsri, Thailand's security chief, announced. He promised they would be repatriated when the area was really safe and not before.

Pay rise rejected

Rome (Reuters) - Italian voters have rejected a Communist Party proposal to pay a cost-of-living wage increase axed by the Government last year, according to partial results of a two-day referendum. With 80 per cent of the votes counted, ministry figures showed 46 per cent in favour and 54 per cent against.

THE ARTS: 1

Television Commercial capers

Advertising is a difficult business to examine on television. Participants, one feels, must be constrained from candour by the prospect of losing a present client or deterring possible business. Channel 4 is none the less tackling it in *The Art of Persuasion*, presented over six weeks by Professor Christopher Frayling, who teaches cultural history at the Royal College of Art. The first programme, *A Very Difficult Client*, was shown last night.

It was about the making of a commercial on Channel 4. You may remember that Joan Collins and the late Leonard Rossiter appeared in a very funny series but not, it seems, memorable or persuasive enough from the product point of view. The Creative Business was the name of the agency attempting to replace this campaign by one which would make the product more successful and appealing to a younger audience. Present Cinnano drinkers, it seems, are mostly women and over 35.

A small Italian town was descended on for the wine-dine. The Creative Business full of a confidence which would lessen rather in the presence of Mr Franco Bosso. "I am a difficult client", he said with some pride, but leaving us in doubt about

whether the pride was in being difficult or in the professional know-how that compelled him to be so.

He proceeded to stick his ear in all over the place and loads of people stood around nervously while discussions were held on vital issues such as whether the Cinnano umbrellas should be up or down.

It was meant to be an international advertisement and fears were expressed that some of the 150 extras Mr Bosso had brought in from Milan might look too young to comply with British television regulations. The cinema involved 1,000 people in the town square, speakers, balloons, much festivity and, of course, much Cinnano. I managed to watch without feeling parched.

It was some time, in the event, before the first 30-second commercial appeared on television and six months before the first cinema showing. Now it has been decided that the international idea is not on.

The questions that lingered in the mind in this limited ad, to some, undoubtedly, became a revelation of an obsessive part of our world: how much did it cost? Candour failed here. Maybe Mr Bosso was being difficult again.

Dennis Hackett

Concert

Concertgebouw/Bernstein Barbiere

A man who looks less likely to renounce life, or even just the centre of the stage, than Leonard Bernstein would be hard to find. This aspect, apart, he seems to find the perfect mirror for his own personality in Mahler's music, and in the Ninth Symphony in particular. His performances have a famously visual dimension, of course, and those who paid £25 to see the agony and the acrobatics would not have been disappointed.

What the Concertgebouw, arguably the world's finest orchestra, thought of this one cannot say. Perhaps the players reflected that their fortes are just as thrilling, their ensembles as immaculate, and their strings as refined and silvery-tongued when they are under the comparatively statuesque direction of Bernard Haitink.

They did play superbly for Bernstein nevertheless, except for one tiny hiatus involving an errant harp at the first movement's conclusion. This is an orchestra seemingly incapable of making an ugly sound, even when projecting the second movement's mood of malignant spikiness, or responding awesomely to Bernstein's conception of the Rondo-Burlesque as a series of hurdles to be surmounted with increasing velocity and crushing power.

Moreover, when the textures thinned one could hear the quality of individual players in every department. The first movement's macabre gestures, for instance, were aptly matched by a remarkable nasal blend of horns and muted trombones, and the admirably secure and lyrical principal horn featured a little later in precisely-balanced duet with the flute that was a model of perfect chamber playing.

It was this first movement that seemed to bring the best out of Bernstein. The tempo was certainly very broad, but this allowed not only for some breathtaking dynamic effects (those gushing crescendos followed by sudden pianissimos were much attended to) but also for the well-pointed articulation of themes that play a crucial signposting role in this massive structure.

By contrast the American pianist Zoltan Kocsis seemed rather ill at ease in Prokofiev's Fourth Sonata, a work demanding the crispest of techniques. Here it sounded altogether too flabby, though Kocsis showed she has the necessary sheer strength in her reading of Shchedrin's Piano Sonata.

Stephen Pettitt

The second movement worked less well. Bernstein exaggerated tempo changes, hurried us to the paradisiac trills and seemed blithely unconcerned with overall shape. The fact that he left large sections completely unorchestrated (offering the leader a celebratory handshake at the movement's close) seemed to symbolize exactly his superficial approach.

With the final adagio, however, his overwhelming sense of theatre was irresistible. The build-up in intensity was effective enough, but the disintegration from a macabrely sonorous climax was magisterially handled. Those magnificent strings swooped downwards on perfectly-judged sand, the pace slowed almost to a standstill, the sound diminished to an electrifying silence. Then a red handkerchief fluttered on the podium: a signal that the maestro had shed a meanly tear, and we should now applaud.

Richard Morrison

London débuts

As the Israeli pianist Ophir Verbitskaya's recital coincided with another, I have to confess to reviewing it from a recording provided by the promoter, from which it is nevertheless plain that this artist is well equipped to tackle the most demanding music from the Romantic repertoire. Her performance of Chopin's B flat minor Sonata was executed on the grandest scale, though it was also one lacking poignancy, as epitomized in the Funeral March, which passed by at a brisk stroll yet without losing a trace of its dignity in the process. Verbitskaya also shaped her music with the utmost care, ensuring that two Liszt Transcendental Studies sounded cogent as well as dazzlingly virtuosic. But for me she was at her best in Schubert's *Drei Klavierstücke*, showing a sensitivity and mellowness necessarily absent from the more extrovert music in her programme.

By contrast the American pianist Zoltan Kocsis seemed rather ill at ease in Prokofiev's Fourth Sonata, a work demanding the crispest of techniques. Here it sounded altogether too flabby, though Kocsis showed she has the necessary sheer strength in her reading of Shchedrin's Piano Sonata.

Stephen Pettitt

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(July 2, 4)
James King
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THE ARTS: 2

Galleries

A natural talent for symbolism

A Salute to British Surrealism 1930-1950

Blond Fine Art

Ceri Richards: The Lyrical Vision

Gillian Jason

Francis Bacon

Marlborough Fine Art

Alfred Whiteley

Odette Gilbert

Michael Sandle

Fischer Fine Art

In certain respects it is remarkable that Surrealism did not make more of a dent on the British art scene in the Thirties. To others it is surprising that it got as far as it did. This apparent contradiction has a lot to do with the general discrepancy between what British artists want to do and what British collectors, private and institutional, want to buy. The phenomenal sales at this year's Royal Academy Summer show, even before it was properly opened, demonstrate an ingrained conservatism in the art-buying public. And yet the natural form of artistic discourse for the British painter or sculptor, at least since the onset of the Romantic movement, seems to have been, from Turner to Bacon and beyond, some form of Symbolism: pictures need not actually tell a story, but they are very likely to convey a teasing sense that something lies beyond the scene, whether it be a pantheistic interpretation of landscape or some kind of psychological or emotional puzzle which the interested spectator feels invited to unravel.

For such painterly inclinations Surrealism would seem to be a ready-made vehicle. But unfortunately it was generally regarded in Britain as some new-fangled foreign subversion, and, though the 1936 International Surrealist Exhibition, which had on its committee such notables as Henry Moore, Herbert Read, Paul Nash, Humphrey Jennings, and McKnight Kauffer, achieved quite a *succès de scandale*, the British artists who contributed to it and others who followed in their wake continued to be viewed with suspicion. Many of them turn up for re-examination in *A Salute to British Surrealism 1930-1950*, which began its career at the Minerva in Colchester, is now in London at Blond Fine Art until June 22 then moves to Hull. It is, even at a glance, a very lively show, full of eccentricity and invention and covering with the

general label of Surrealism an amazing variety of talents and approaches.

And most of it seems very British indeed. A certain amount, naturally, dispenses the small change of international Surrealism, evoking moonlit landscapes, the dream or peopled with the amorphous creatures that seem to surge out of anyone's unconscious at the slightest provocation. But even John Armstrong manages to import to his astral geometry a faint but definite hint of the South Downs, and the distracted young women who drift through Conroy Maddox's skeletal upper floors look more like refugees from Lewis Carroll than objects of polymorphously perverse passion.

There are minor but telling works by Moore, Nash and that other stalwart of the British chapter, Roland Penrose. And there are some very telling works by almost entirely unfamiliar names, such as Renben Mednikoff, who has a highly original way with robot-like creatures halfway between Lager and S. G. Hulme Beaman, or Edith Rimmington, whose *Oneiroscopist*, a man/bird in a diving suit, is certainly an image to conjure with in the small hours. Some of the best work, in fact, is by women artists, some of them still going strong (and Surrealist), like Eileen Agar and Ithell Colquhoun, whose worryingly anthropomorphic *Pine Family* stays firmly lodged in the memory.

On the whole, though, it remains true that the British Surrealists did best when they moved away from this alarmingly avant-garde-sounding categorization. Ceri Richards, for instance, who is represented here and turns up in fuller force at the unfailingly interesting Gillian Jason Gallery in Camden Town (until July 26) in a one-man show subtitled *The Lyrical Vision*, where his transformative images of plants that might be birds that might be people that might be landscapes (and are probably all at the same time) flutter and flower on all sides with something so unconfined that it must be joy.

Francis Bacon too, child of Thirties Surrealism as in many senses he was, while always carefully avoiding the label, is adding currently to the staggering achievement of his retrospective at the Tate with a show at Marlborough Fine Art (until July 31) which includes striking early works like *Landscape, South of France* (1952), one of his very few "pure" landscapes which is yet full of indefinable menace, as well as the most recent, the extraordinary "poster" (actually a major painting) for a Van Gogh show which may or may not happen in Arles in 1988, and *Painting March* (1985), another of the new series of landscape/interiors which have turned away from direct confrontation with the human figure. Symbolist painting of the most intense kind, where you may not feel at all sure you



Something for the small hours: Edith Rimmington's *Oneiroscopist*

know what you are looking at, but have no doubt that whatever order of reality it belongs to is just as intensely real as any you know through the direct evidence of your own two eyes.

Alfred Whiteley shares the same kind of other-worldly atmosphere, though technically his approach could hardly be



Merry-go-round horses or living flesh and blood?—detail from Alfred Whiteley's *Dad and the Black Pudding Man*

more different. In Bacon everything is on the verge of dissolution, turning into something else almost before it can be caught and fixed on the canvas. Whiteley's curious visions, on the contrary, are held in a timeless moment of monumental immobility, like the figures on a Grecian urn: even the painting which, in subject-matter, comes closest to Bacon country, *Dad and the Black Pudding Man*, an evocation of the slaughter-house in which his father worked, manages to endow it with its cool formalism so that for a moment we do not realize what the painting is about, and even when we do the impression obstinately remains of men manhandling merry-go-round horses rather than living flesh and blood.

The paintings referring to the First World War, *Wounded Flyer* and *The Fallen Flyer*, have a similarly strange air of showing grown-ups playing children's games rather than being directly engaged in matters of life and death. The Neue Sachlichkeit clarity of outline in Whiteley's work helps to create a dreamlike quality which allies him, unconsciously I suspect, with the Surrealists. But, whether because of his long isolation from the practising art world (at 57 this is his first one-man show) or because of a natural, untarnished singularity of vision, Whiteley remains

almost defiantly his own man, perfectly possible to find mystifying but quite impossible to ignore. The paintings, most of his product during the last 10 years, are at the Odette Gilbert Gallery until July 5.

Nor must we forget sculpture. Michael Sandle, germanic as in many ways he is, what with his obsessive interest in Götzendimierung and Armageddon, also belongs very noticeably to the good old British Symbolist tradition. His latest show, at Fischer Fine Art until June 21, contains sculptures of a vaguely memorial type which is very interesting to compare, in their gloomy fatalism, with the kindred but more definitely heroic works of Charles Serjeant Jagger now at the Imperial War Museum. Jagger celebrated, with becoming sobriety, the consummation of a great cause; Sandle seems cast down because there are no great, brave causes left. But the images of his despondency are amazing: especially the brand-new standing figure which tellingly manages to evoke in one piece every war from Troy to Vietnam. His drawings make the connection with the Symbolist movement even more explicit; there is even one which refers clearly to Böcklin's *Isle of the Dead*. An uncomfortable talent certainly, but a major talent nevertheless.

John Russell Taylor

Festivals

Wisdom without pretension

Mieczyslaw Horszowski

Snapé Maltings

One of the newest, yet also oldest, of Aldeburgh specialities is the nonagenarian pianist Mieczyslaw Horszowski, who returned on Sunday night for his third consecutive festival, and began a memorable recital with Beethoven's D major Sonata, Op. 28. The work is obviously one he feels at home in, though it is characteristic of his poised musical personality that the result of intimate acquaintance should be more respect than affection. He knows the music profoundly, but he is never knowing about it.

The later variations of the

slow movement, for instance, showed his ability to communicate the marvellousness of the music very simply, without appearing to patronise either Beethoven or his audience. There was a perfect grace to his moulding of the melody, subtly lifted in its rhythm to give the hint of a continuing astonishment. Then the wit of the scherzo was delightfully judged, with the bass murmuring in its sleep in response to the brilliantly clear treble. The finale, though, was the greatest miracle. In his balancing of short phrases Mr Horszowski presented the movement as a sequence of smoothly modelled questions and answers, an Olympian examination sheet in which every possible eventuality had been considered. This was wisdom worn with the least possible pretension, and cheer-

fully dismissing itself with a coda of extraordinary light-fingered joy.

Mozart's B flat Sonata, K 570, was again the occasion for a luminous performance, one from which the years appeared to have bleached away anything inessential. The first movement was a game of motifs, each with its own colour and character; the finale moved to a witty checkmate. Then at last Mr Horszowski returned to the programme laid down for him (his earlier changes had given the evening a nice spontaneity), and played music by Chopin, the C sharp minor Polonaise, and the B minor Scherzo, proving that his virtuosity is almost as amazingly preserved as his musicality is distilled.

Paul Griffiths

Capricorn/Knuussen

Almeida Theatre

The Almeida Festival, 30 days in Islington which look set to offer the most eccentric, brash and perhaps most stimulating musical experiences in London this summer, was launched with an exhilarating lunchtime extravaganza by the ensemble Capricorn.

The festival's initial preoccupation is with American experimentalism throughout this century. These concerts are grouped under the picturesque heading "At the tomb of Charles Ives", a title borrowed from the first piece to be played, Lou Harrison's 1963 homage, making haunting use of alto trombone solos, oriental-like jingles and two different tuning systems jarring against each other, evocatively set the mood for what followed.

What did follow was a dazzling demonstration of why Ives earns such homages. A score of pithy tone-poems for a "pit band" combination of 15 players were by turns mystical,



Charles Ives: sly wit with a straight face

brassy or folkily gauche, but always unpredictable. The impact of Ives's audacious collisions of disparate elements, his suddenly menacing climaxes and his gloriously debunking endings—all these seemed intensified by the hard-edged chamber orchestration.

Several were receiving British premieres, but it is impossible to think of such fun showpieces as the Four Ragtime Dances or

the Sets for Theatre Orchestra being ignored in the future. Oliver Knussen's direction ensured performances of great character and virtuosity, bringing out Ives's sly wit without losing the essential straightforward presentation.

Conlon Nanarrow, the 73-year-old American who has recently acquired a cult popularity after decades of decent obscurity, was present to hear British premieres of four early works. The *Sonatina para piano*, brilliantly played by Yvar Mikhashoff and Michael McCandless, revealed an anarchic sort of mind let loose on Bach and the blues to entertaining effect, whereas the works for instrumental ensembles, though intriguingly constructed, seemed pale and conventional beside the surrounding Ives.

Nanarrow, however, receives more thorough attention later in this enterprising festival which, incidentally, added a seven-hour performance of non-stop American piano music as a modest coda to this opening concert.

Richard Morrison

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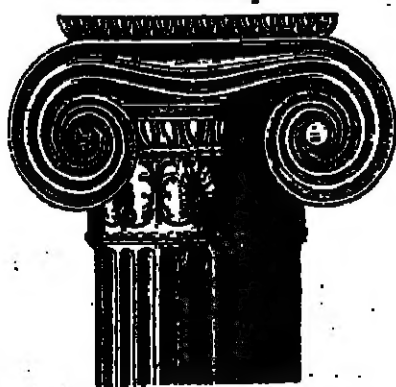
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In the midst of this incomparable location, a new concept is about to debut at 125 East 57th Street. Madison Equities proudly unveils Place des Antiquaires, America's most fashionable and comprehensive assembly of the finest antiques and collectibles from throughout the world. Place des Antiquaires will feature 90 shops and will consist of more than 50,000 square feet of prime space exclusively devoted to the retail sale of the finest art objects, collectibles and period pieces. Most importantly, all scores and public areas will be fully finished to the highest standards by landlord at landlord's cost.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Oman leaves its mark

Mark Thatcher and his motor-racing friend Steve Tipping voluntarily have liquidated their company Montegale - the marketing firm into which Mark paid his controversial consultancy fee for the Oman contract. The pair set up the company in 1979. Yesterday my source suggested the collapse of Montegale (bank account co-signatory Denis Thatcher) was largely due to the Oman row. "It meant they lost a lot of contracts they might otherwise have got, and when Mark moved to the US there seemed little point in continuing," Mark's Oman fee - allegedly around £50,000 - was paid by Montegale's British client, Cementation, after it won a £300 million construction contract in 1981 from the Omanis. Questions were asked when it emerged Mrs Thatcher was in Oman at the same time as her son. Tipping, who met Mark twice in London last week, now runs Daco, a furniture and stationery firm in Alderhot.



Tipping (left) and Thatcher

Clear the decks

Would the Government resort to hugging Brooks's gentlemen's club in St James's? Certainly someone seems to think it would. At a recent meeting to set up a committee of arbiters on naval procurement - independent of the Whitehall machine - the members' private rum was swept for bugs prior to the meeting. According to my source the surveillance equipment went haywire, "but the official line will be that nothing happened". The club secretary - so edgy he refused to give his name (Michael Roberts) - said it was "fairly routine" for private rooms at Brooks's to be swept and said bugs had not been found. Why the committee took the precaution of sweeping it is a mystery. The committee is investigating the MoD's decision to opt for the Admiralty's long-thin ship design against the independently designed short-fat ship. Both proponents would meet in the High Court early next year and the court case is likely to expose the reputations of certain navy big wigs and ministers.

Bugs funny

Unlike Brooks's, it is not "fairly routine" to sweep all gentlemen's clubs in London. White's was incredulous when I suggested bugs may be present. The club's incredulity lessened when it realised my inquiry concerned the electronic variety. "We don't have any of these either. What a preposterous idea."

Playing up

Show folk! Methuen, celebrating 500 plays in print, on Sunday mustered "the largest public gathering of playwrights in recent years" at the Royal Court and publicized it so well there was not even standing room left. And what happens? Irish panelist Margaret D'Arcy announces that she has had nothing to do with the theatre since 1972 ("I have no interest in it at all"), calls it a drug, compares it to a blood sport ("Think of all the dead playwrights - the suicides") and condemns the format of the meeting. The result? An hour wasted wrangling about how to conduct the session, during which the chairman, Michael Attenborough of the Hampstead Theatre, is briefly forced to leave the chair. Before Miss D'Arcy leads a small band of fans out to an alternative meeting in the theatre bar.

No joke



On which council bottle bank does this eastern-looking gent with his silly turban appear? In anti-racist Islington, as it happens. Yesterday the council agreed that the cartoon represented an atrocious and stereotypical image of a Middle Eastern person. "I am very surprised that there is one in Islington. We certainly do not approve of racial stereotyping."

Fraud squad

The Metropolitan Police paper *The Job* wishes there was a journalistic equivalent of the charge "wasting police time". Week after week it is inundated with bogus ads. "We've had people trying to sell off their superiors' cars, others wanting rubber gear and whips," says deputy editor Tim Muir, who has made complaints to superintendent level. The latest wheeze was an appeal supposedly from a Primrose Hill PC Dayer for anecdotes about the miners' dispute for a book in aid of charity - all nonsense, apparently. "Police men are the biggest wind-up artists of all time," complains Muir.

Admit your mistake, Mrs T

by David Steel

Foreign observers must think the British Government crazy to condemn its Parliament to a further round of embittered debates and late night sittings on the abolition of the metropolitan counties. Yet here we are, with Mrs Thatcher and Patrick Jenkin intending to force through a bill by the weight of Conservative numbers in the absence of any stronger argument.

It is crazy to persist with this ill-thought out and badly drafted bill. The Government should now withdraw it, and consult with other party leaders on an alternative approach to the restructuring of metropolitan government which can command a broad consensus of Parliament and of the electorate.

This Bill was conceived in spite, and pursued in a spirit of excessive and mistaken zeal to find modest economies in public expenditure. The chief aim was to abolish the GLC as a power base for Labour politicians which was offensive to the Conservative Government across the river. In much the same spirit President Mitterrand set out to abolish the city administration of Paris. In order to destroy the power base of Jacques Chirac. But Mitter-

rand, with a greater respect for democratic opinion and for the weakness of his case, withdrew his proposal in the face of wide popular opposition.

The Lords debates so far on the Metropolitan Counties Bill have been a clear moral defeat for its proposals. Alone among Conservative peers, Lords Boyd-Carpenter and Harman-Nicholls doggedly supported the Government line, while battalions of their colleagues stood up to voice their doubts and criticisms and shamefacedly allowed themselves to be dragged into the lobbies. Conservative backbench peers rarely attend the Lords are having to be organized to turn up on a strict rota basis to outvote the coalitions which oppose the bill.

The Government can, of course, succeed in forcing through the abolition of the metropolitan counties. The sums which Patrick Jenkin promised would be saved have now disappeared in concessions to the arts and other interests, and in revelations of the costs of the new non-elected bodies that will have to be created. A government which

came into office with a crusader's determination to cut down on quangos is setting out to create a morass of new quangos to administer the functions which will have to be continued at metropolitan level. The accountability of our police forces is to be reduced, and their funding thrown into question, by a government pledged to maintain order and law. The time-scale for abolition in the spring of 1986 is already desperately short, the main reason for clinging to it the Government's determination to avoid new metropolitan elections.

There comes a time when all democratic politicians must admit that they are mistaken. To press on now, regardless of the arguments, of public opinion, and of the concerted opposition of other political parties, would do grave damage to Britain's constitutional conventions.

Here is a government whose steamroller majority rests on the flimsy basis of a million fewer votes in 1983 than in 1979 which is now playing fast and loose with the democratic structure of the British constitution. I beseech the Prime Minister to think it possible that she may be mistaken, and withdraw this Bill now.

The author is leader of the Liberal Party.

John Carlin on a growing challenge to the debt-ridden government

What price change for Mexico?

Mexico City. President Miguel de la Madrid, who arrives in London today, took power at the end of 1982 knowing his six years in office would hold little cheer. His predecessor, Señor José López Portillo, had handed him an uncomfortable legacy: Mexico's worst economic crisis this century and a ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party more discredited than at any point since it took control of Mexican politics in 1928. The flamboyant López Portillo, intoxicated by the discovery in 1978 of vast new oil fields, had sold Mexicans dreams of untold prosperity. For López Portillo himself the dream did come true - he is said to have accumulated a personal hoard of more than one billion. The country, meanwhile, was left virtually bankrupt.

Battling to banish this ghost, de la Madrid has projected an image of honesty and tough realism. Instead of the canny, usually corrupt, "politicos" who have headed the PRI's ranks in recent years, de la Madrid has chosen around him men with apparently clean records in public service, solid technocrats educated in England and the United States.

This highly professional team has succeeded in calming the nerves of the international financial community, to whom Mexico owes \$96 billion, including \$13 billion to British banks.

Two years ago de la Madrid declared that Mexico stood out "in the economic chaos that pervades the world for its seriousness, its responsibility and its willingness to fulfill its promises." Nothing has changed since then. Mexico remains, by common agreement, the star client of the International Monetary Fund. At home, however, things do not look quite so rosy.

The great majority of Mexico's 78 million population have appeared quite willing to tolerate, even admire, the shameless self-enrichment of senior PRI officials so long as the country maintained bumper rates of growth, nourishing the people's hopes that they themselves might share in the bonanza.

But now, with the country having to channel 75 per cent of its oil export income into debt interest payments with inflation uncontrollably high and with the peso currency plummeting, Mexicans have had to accept that Mexico is



doomed to underdeveloped Third World status for the foreseeable future.

Until de la Madrid took office, election results in Mexico were as predictable as in the Soviet Union. But now Mexicans have begun to express their resentment at the ballot box. In local elections since de la Madrid took office, the PRI has done badly.

The party's first real challenge comes on July 7, with elections for seven state governors and four deputies to a new national congress. The PRI can afford to lose seats in congress and still maintain its comfortable majority. But if a governorship is lost, it could signal the beginning of the end for Mexico's one-party system.

Ironically, given President de la Madrid's popularity in international banking circles, the challenge comes

from the pro-Reagan, business-backed right-wing party, National Action or PAN. The left-wing parties - of which there are dozens - are bitterly divided. The PAN, patiently awaiting its chance for 34 years, has therefore emerged as the only plausible party of opposition.

The PAN has been able to capitalize on its unique status in large measure because it has struck a chord among the Americanized and once-pampered middle classes, the so-called sector most immediately damaged by the economic crisis. It is an eminently bourgeois party, fiercely opposed to what its leaders describe as the PRI's "communist" orthodoxy of state control - there is more private ownership in Nicaragua than in Mexico. The PAN holds out the promise to middle class Mexicans that the quality of life glimpsed north of the border in

the United States can also be theirs. Apart from a few general principles, however, the party is conspicuously lacking in any concrete plans; a point the PRI never tires of making these days.

The great appeal of the PAN, however, is that, quite simply, it offers the possibility of change. And the critical question next month's election will answer is whether the PRI is willing to permit change.

"We don't need fraud, to secure electoral victories," de la Madrid declared at a meeting for the PRI leadership in March. "We must seek clear, transparent triumphs." But aides have acknowledged there are factions inside the PRI who hold that it must "win" at whatever cost, by whatever means.

Over the years the PRI system has been perceived by diplomats and academics as a sort of benevolent authoritarianism, resorting to repression only when external efforts at more delicate persuasion have failed. The PAN promises now to test that benevolence. Its president, Señor Pablo Madero, has stated categorically that "if there is fraud in these elections, then there will be violence" because "fraud itself is a form of violence against the rights of the people".

If there is anti-government violence no one doubts that there will be a fierce response from the police and army, as happened in the northern town of Piedras Negras last Christmas, soon after local elections, when PAN supporters ran riot and burnt down the town hall. This time the violence could be more widespread, the danger of long-term political instability greater and the risks magnified of heading in the repressive direction of countries like Chile.

The clean "democratic" option publicly sought by the president would involve a total break with PRI tradition. It would also provide the most concrete proof that the government is as serious about "moral renewal" as it palpably has been about "austerity".

The economic crisis has forced on Mexico a period of political transition, a point not lost among a PRI leadership noted for its refined political instinct. Some in the party, and many outside it, believe now that the PRI's best instinct - for the continued stability of both party and country - would lead it to mark the transition by consciously relinquishing some of its power.

Roger Scruton

Let learning grow - with some pruning

Higher education has a loud voice in the media, a strong arm in Parliament and a free hand in the public purse. It is one of the most powerful vested interests in the modern state, and better able than most to give proof of its indispensability. Those who wish to clip the tree of learning, to prune its rotting branches, or merely to question the general value of a growth whose shade seems so lethal to every rival interest are, to those who live from the fruit of the tree, the rudest of rude barbarians.

Not surprisingly, therefore, the government's green paper on the future of higher education has provoked sincere and vehement outrage. And even if it is less uncouth than most of its critics, the paper is undeniably deficient in tact and understanding. It argues, reasonably enough, that education should be funded by the public only if it benefits the public. But its utilitarian idea of benefit, suggesting that there might be an economic standard of academic success, is riddled with confusions.

Economics is, of course, a primary concern so responsible government. And the country can prosper only if it produces the right kind of "human capital". Hence polytechnics and universities have a vital economic function. Prosperity, however, is not an end but a means. It is the *status quo* non which guarantees nothing. We should not value education as a means to prosperity, but prosperity as a means to education. Only then will our priorities be right. For education, unlike prosperity, is an end in itself.

This is not to say that the government is wrong to consider the economics of higher education, or to seek a suitable return for the expenditure of public money. It must be clear, however, not only about its own priorities, but also about the priorities of those whom it seeks to discipline. Academics do not value learning for its economic results, but for its own sake; they do not learn to provide a pecuniary advantage, but for its own sake, they do not do research to stimulate the economy, but for its own sake. Of course, education is also profitable. But if you fix your eye too firmly on the profit, you lose sight of the thing itself.

Education is like friendship; it brings help, comfort, strength, privilege and success. Friendship is unquestionably profitable. However, you must never value friendship for the profit that it brings. To treat friendship as a means is to lose the capacity for friendship. Your companion is no longer your friend when you begin to weigh him in the balance of advantage. So it is with education; the profit of education persists only so long as you don't pursue it.

Furthermore, the profit comes to us by an "invisible hand". Economic planning is no more likely to succeed in this field than in any other. Who could have foreseen that a society whose elite was educated primarily in languages which are no longer spoken, should prove capable of managing the largest, the most profitable, and the most powerful colonial administration that the world has known? And who could

have foreseen that a society whose educational system is dedicated to science and technology should have produced only indifferent science, faulty technology, and a flourishing underground culture profoundly hostile to both?

In this area wise planning means the careful avoidance of plans. Research must take its own course, guided only by that interest in truth without which it has neither result nor motive. And education should provide not the narrow details of tomorrow's technology (which will soon be yesterday's) but the intellectual discipline which adapts itself to new and changing circumstances precisely because it is attached to none. Higher education, in short, must be pointless and irrelevant. Otherwise it has no value.

That said, it is only fair to praise the government for questioning much that passes for higher education in this country. When the tide of drift has swollen to such proportions that the University of Bradford can offer a first degree in a subject ("peace studies") that doesn't even exist, it is surely time to ask whether there might not be better uses for the taxpayer's money.

Take an impartial look at a modern campus, at the literature which students are asked to study, the questions they are required to answer, the standards of conduct to which they are expected to conform, and ask yourself how far what you observe accords with any ideal of disinterested learning. Or attend a conference of the British Sociological Association and listen to semi-literate papers defacing the social construction of solidarity in the face of a dual strategy of paternalism and repression; the thesis that "women are policed through the control of their bodies" and the idea that "flashing" is an instrument of male domination.

Or pick up a copy of one of the new journals of literary theory, *Semiotica*, for instance, or *Poetics Today*, and wade through the acres of jargon produced by people who can neither write with skill nor read with understanding, and who have lost all sense of the difference between a genuine question and a will of the wisp.

Perform any of those exercises and then ask yourself whether the expansion of higher education has really produced, on the whole, the disciplined intellect and cultured perception which the critics of the green paper suppose to be threatened by the government's parsimony. Ask yourself what has been the consequence of filling universities and polytechnics with academics who would not have been considered a generation earlier and yet who at once obtained tenure. Ask yourself whether bad education is really better than no education at all, and whether a government is really under an obligation to maintain the flood of vociferous ignorance that pours from our academic institutions. You will then perhaps commend the green paper for seeking to judge those institutions by some standard, even if it is a standard that does not apply.

The author is editor of the Salisbury Review.

moreover... Miles Kington

Profit is the father of invention

This Sunday is Father's Day, the day on which greetings card manufacturers traditionally get together, count their money and wonder if it might be worth starting an Aunt's Day next year. After all, there are more aunts around than fathers...

*My favourite aunt, this card's for you
So please don't look askance
If I should send it off as well
To all my other aunts*

The history of Father's Day is hidden in the shrouds of obscurity, or to put it another way, nobody has bothered to find out the origin. The original name was Fathering Day, which some people think is a corruption of Fotheringay, a medieval town where greetings cards were first manufactured. In those days all cards were made by hand and written by the fathers, hence the expression Father's Day.

There was no post to speak of, so all cards had to be delivered by the sender. This was all right if you lived in the same village, but if your favourite relative had gone on a crusade or a pilgrimage to Rome, the problems were more acute. Historians now think that up to 20 per cent of people on any one crusade were civilians taking cards out to relatives who'd gone on the previous crusade. On the whole, though, they preferred to stay at home and give them to the head of the family or, hence, probably, the expression Father's Day.

The first greetings cards which have survived were those written by Henry VIII on what he was pleased to call Wife's Day, the day tending to change with the wife. The post was not much better then, and on at least one occasion he sent a card to one wife, which arrived a year later and was received by the next. This no doubt explains his habit of addressing cards in later years: "To Which Wife It May Concerne".

*I send this greeting card to you
My dearest darling wife,
To bring to mind your marriage
was
"A male child or your life!"*

A hundred years later Father's

Day had become an occasion for roistering, carousing, rioting, dwile flonking, dancing, japing, hundred-a-side football, kiss-stealing, orgies and returning library books late, so not unnaturally Oliver Cromwell was marked by a complete silence throughout England, except perhaps for the occasional whistling of "Have a nice day, father", and in 1656 several young farmers in Hertfordshire were hanged for attempting to give their fathers slippers and pairs of socks.

Charles II, of course, revived it, as it cost him nothing personally, and in June 1668 Samuel Pepys records in his diary: "Up bedtimes, and did receive a letter from my family for Father's Day. This foolish festival is of benefit only to the tie and kerchief makers", which suggests that the tradition has not changed much.

James II, a Catholic, was a strict observer of Friday as a fast day and attempted to restrict festivities to the preceding day - indeed, there are some historians who claim that Father's Day is a corruption of "for Thursday", but this does not seem plausible, as no one was likely to make money out of it.

The whole thing was put back on a correct footing in 1693 when the Honourable Company of Greetings Card Makers was formed to get the maximum profit out of any day going. They underwent a temporary setback in 1715 when they put out a special card marked "To my favourite pretender", and many of their number were executed for treason, but a good commercial idea cannot be held back for long. Today Father's Day is celebrated every year as a tribute to those card-makers who make so much money out of it.

*This card, dear Dad, is just for you
Or so the makers think.
It gives a sentimental view
Of someone with a drink.
A set of golf clubs, pipe in hand,
A neat deer-stalker hat,
Dear God, am I to understand
There are still Dads like that?*

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Training: where the problems lie

Colin Hughes sifts through the results of a new poll which points to problems for policymakers

they had received no training in the past five years, although 62 per cent were willing to try over the next two years.

In West Germany, apprenticeships and college release are woven into the fabric of working life. The Japanese spend £60,000 million on in-company training compared with £2,500 million spent here. In the United States, where employers spend five times the average amount spent in Britain.

The incoherent British system is under review. Qualifications are to be rationalized following an inter-departmental White Paper in April, but there remains no national integration. Would-be adult trainees do not know where to go, or where they might find funds.

In the MORI "four towns" survey, the employed group was shown to be a largely stable workforce. Most had worked at one place for more than five years; one in 20 had worked more than one period out of work; only 12 per cent were actively seeking another job.

Although 42 per cent anticipate major changes in their work only 29 per cent thought they would need

training to cope with changes that 13 per cent of working people believe they can ride upheaval on their own wits.

Only 53 per cent would consider training, compared with 71 per cent of jobless who would be willing trainees. Half were keen to receive personal advice. Only 15 per cent, however, had been invited recently to discuss possibilities with their employer. That stark figure alone underlines the National Economic Development Council's view that employer attitudes must bear a large part of the blame.

Once those in work have had a taste of training, their appetite increases. Half of those questioned wanted some guidance and prompting, however, way beyond the level of advice provided now, formally or informally.

Moving would ease some of the problems of the one in 10 who blamed their local rate of unemployment, but half of them said they would refuse to move. One in four of those who attributed their job-hunting failure to being unskilled remained loath to remedy the problem by training. The conclusion

Pay-as-you-learn

The single most telling result from the poll is that fewer than one in 10 working people would be prepared to take out a bank loan for adult training. Of the 51 per cent in permanent jobs who would consider training to improve or supplement their skills, only 11 per cent would take out a loan to pay for it, with 79 per cent rejecting the suggestion.

The idea of running loan schemes has been current among employment and education ministers for some time, and the MSC is expected to run pilot projects. The poll evidence is that the market will be small. Long-term financial commitments are widely distrusted, and many employees doubt that the expendi-

ture would necessarily result in increased earnings.

The scheme would involve banks providing training loans guaranteed by the Treasury. On a large scale, the guarantee would have to be included in public sector borrowing figures, and could increase them drastically.

Promising features are nonetheless apparent. Half of those willing to train said they were prepared to pay at least some of the costs, and 14 per cent were prepared to pay all. Four out of five of those who would consider training would also be prepared to do it in their own time, and only one in four refused to pay any costs.



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THE OPEN AGENDA

In the movement of ideas in this decade the Adam Smith Institute must be accorded a role. Its serial publications under the title *The Omega File* have been a succession of jabs and feints against entrenched public sector interest. Not all have drawn blood - the institute's thoughts on the criminal justice system for example have attracted little notice. Yet an institute which only three years ago was widely perceived as a fanatic band of libertarians to make Mill blush has undoubtedly become a source of practical proposals for the conduct of some of Mrs Thatcher's ministers; its language of deregulation and privatization is now one from which politicians, and not just Conservatives, are happy to borrow.

Of the several merits of the compendium of Omega reports published yesterday the greatest is the institute's honest vision of the welfare state extending far outside the NHS or public housing to provide an array of

benefits - to middle class parents with children in higher education, to farmers as skilled in milking bureaucracy as their cattle, to professional people organized in restraint of trade and competition, to crofters inefficiently subsidized. The same climate and era which saw the creation of the NHS produced the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act and its restriction on development, its protection of one man's amenity against others' opportunity. The institute has been prepared coldly to appraise both institutions. Its reports thus provide a check-list of areas where the Government has entertained radical thoughts (even the Department of Health has looked sideways at the financing of the NHS) and those where political fearfulness has forbidden even internal reviews.

The institute's thinking can of course be faulted. Some of its work betrays a philosophical eclecticism which endangers the

whole project; at times the principle seems to be more hatred of government than love for individual freedom. This leaves little room for fair estimation of useful or necessary public purpose. These papers rarely convey the sense expressed by Adam Smith and those he influenced - such as Thomas Jefferson - of the noble and enlightening qualities of government. Key questions about the regulation of private monopoly are set to one side.

These four hundred odd pages are hardly the stuff of bedside reading - but they ought by now to have been well digested by ministers and officials in all the departments and agencies they concern. The institute calls its file "an almanac". Better to call it a radical reference book, a starting point for each and every minister and Prime Minister who aspires to a rigorous appraisal of the working of the governmental empire they inherited and which, as yet, they have little decreased.

MEXICAN WELCOME

When President de la Madrid of Mexico took office in December 1982, he inherited a country which was facing what appeared to be a profound political and economic crisis caused largely by the policies of his predecessor Lopez Portillo. Lopez Portillo had tried to use Mexico's new oil wealth to purchase every political soft option. He dignified this policy by describing it as "learning how to live with abundance". He failed, and miserably. It is a measure of President de la Madrid's achievement that now, in 1985, as he starts a state visit today in London, the world's view of Mexico has changed so much for the better. He has brought serious responsible leadership to a country which had long needed it.

The strategic importance of Mexico to the whole Western world had previously been somewhat ignored. It certainly came to the forefront in 1982 through for the wrong reasons, since the immediate danger appeared to be of a major international default causing havoc in the world's financial system.

There was another fear in Washington which was always resented in Mexico itself, though not fully with justification. That fear was that Mexico's curiously elusive system of semi-democracy would be unequal to the strain of recovery from a near economic collapse. The consequence would then be some kind of major disintegration and instability, igniting that vast country on the southern border of the United States, and dwarfing those lesser difficulties in the tiny states of Central America. Any further instability could have spawned a refugee problem and a scale of illegal immigration across America's common border which would have grown into a serious

domestic crisis within the United States.

These fears have obviously abated for the short term. But the significance of Mexico to the United States stems from more than its common border and the fact that they are two major trading partners. The Gulf of Mexico sits over the route through which the United States would be able to support NATO in an emergency. That fact and the potential danger of an unstable Mexico have often been lost on the European mind. Europeans consequently have tended to carp about Washington's detailed plans in Central America without necessarily paying sufficient attention to the overall view.

In London President de la Madrid's conversations with Britain, however, will be able to provide a different perspective of Central American developments than those to be heard in Washington. In private they may not be quite as different as often appears from the public statements emerging from the Contadora peace process in which Mexico is involved. Everybody seems to find the Contadora discussions usefully ineffective in coping with the slow but unresolved issue of Nicaragua-exported communism.

A more important and fruitful bond between our governments is likely to be in the growth of trade which should open up between Britain and Mexico so long as President Madrid continues with the policy that he has started.

He has managed to reduce his government debt, bring down the rate of inflation, though not yet to the 40 per cent by the end of 1984, to which he had aspired. However, he has in practice repudiated the populist spending policies of most of his predecessors, embraced a considerable

privatization programme, and reduced the role of big amorphous almost ubiquitously spendthrift governments, particularly in the secondary areas which are of no fundamental importance to the course of the economy.

President de la Madrid has managed to renegotiate Mexico's international debt so that, certainly while he is in office, the world's bankers will sleep more soundly. Nevertheless there are parts of the Mexican economic management which still cause concern to potential international investors. After years of antipathy towards the outside foreign investor restrictions remain. Mexico has always insisted on foreign capital being limited to 49 per cent of the equity with other regulations in the wings.

In February 1984, Mexico's Secretary of Commerce, Hector Hernandez, introduced a National Foreign Investment Commission to help attract new foreign investment but the old 49 per cent law still stays on the statute books. Since then the Mexican Government has said that it hopes to attract an extra billion dollars a year of foreign investment but the President in his talks with financial circles, that would-be British investors are likely to remain unconvinced about the full attractions of Mexico so long as that 49 per cent law remains in the back-ground.

That is likely to be one of the messages he hears. Moreover a test case is already available with a proposed investment by IBM. That initially ran foul of the Foreign Investment Commission. If Mexico is still putting obstructions in the way of a company as symbolic as IBM, what hope is there for other would-be investors with less clout?

EXEMPLARY JUSTICE

What right has Britain to criticize the Soviet record on civil liberties when Britain itself has repeatedly been found guilty by the European Court of Human Rights? Moscow publicists are not short of ammunition. They blame the shameful behaviour of British football hooligans on despair at being deprived of the right to work. They cite the Strasbourg court's condemnation of various practices, from the treatment of arrested persons in Northern Ireland to corporal punishment in schools, and deplore in particular the British immigration laws which *Pravda* claims amount to racial discrimination. Moscow Radio quotes *The Times* as stating that one third of complaints to the European Court from the 21 countries which signed the Convention on Human Rights come from Britain.

This is not a record of which we can be proud, but it should certainly not stop the British representatives at the Ottawa review conference demanding that the USSR improve its observance of the Helsinki accords. Civil liberties are not guaranteed for all time simply because rulers sign some Magna Carta; rights must be won and defended. It is unpardonable mental sloth to dismiss the debate as pointless on the grounds that since both the British and the Soviet governments are guilty of violations, their mutual recriminations are little more than insincere propaganda.

The degree of guilt is very different. British citizens feel free to complain to Strasbourg. Soviet citizens who criticize their government's record risk long

prison sentences. The British media stimulate discussion of the issues by reporting alleged violations in detail; the Soviet media is likewise free to report violations in detail - if they occur in the West.

When issues are openly debated in democratic societies improvements generally follow. Significantly, Soviet propagandists prefer to draw evidence for their criticisms of "bourgeois society" from the western media. When Moscow accuses President Reagan of having his own Dachau-style concentration camps, the source is not Tass, since Soviet citizens would find it incredible, but the US magazine *Spotlight*, which is cited to the effect that tens of thousands are now behind barred wire: "not only illegal immigrants but also American citizens who criticize the White House". Although happy to exploit Western Press freedom, the Warsaw Pact representatives at Ottawa refused to allow journalists to attend the debates; such decisions must be unanimous, and in fact only the closing session on June 17 will have the media present.

The Kremlin has not succeeded, however, in imposing total censorship - on the conference which is supposed to discuss the free flow of people and information. Western and neutral delegates issue copies of their speeches and provide accounts of what Warsaw Pact representatives say. The US delegation includes an information officer who briefs journalists on the proceedings. The chief Soviet diplomat, Mr Vsevolod Sofinsky (whose spell as ambassador to New Zealand ended amid accusations of attempted trade union

subversion), denounced Britain for its unemployment, illiteracy, suppressing of the Gaelic language, and its inadequate maternity leave.

When he raised the case of Bobby Sands, the IRA terrorist who in 1981 starved himself to death in prison, the British delegate pointed out that in the USSR nationalists accused of terrorism are executed. The Soviet press has reported several such cases, involving most recently Georgians and Armenians. Moreover, an Estonian, Jiri Kukk, imprisoned for nothing worse than peacefully defending his nation's cultural heritage, was killed by forced feeding when he went on hunger strike.

Speaking in defence of Soviet citizens imprisoned for monitoring their regime's violations of the Helsinki Accords, the Dutch delegate said that the whole population of the Netherlands would be in prison if it were a crime to criticize their government. The Polish rulers, who appear to favour such a solution for the Solidarity problem, were embarrassed when Lech Walesa wrote to the Ottawa conference complaining that a law adopted last month has increased penal repression.

The Czech delegate tried to defend his government's harassment of the Charter-77 movement, which last March issued an appeal central to the matters under discussion at Ottawa: "The freedom and dignity of individual citizens provide the key to the freedom and self-determination of nations. And only sovereign nations can transform Europe into a community of equal partners which, rather than threatening global nuclear war, would serve as an example of genuine peaceful coexistence."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Political will in famine prevention

From Dr Frances D'Souza

Sir, Your leader on food and famine (June 10) correctly identifies two major issues which continue to make sub-Saharan Africa increasingly vulnerable. The last point is crucial, that improvements in attempts to prevent famine should not remain in the "remote dimension of money, subsidy and international politics". This would be a dangerous conventional wisdom if only because it may allow the international donor community to absolve itself from more pragmatic action.

Even within the context of the complicated politics of some famine-prone African countries there are actions which, if taken now, could reduce potential death from starvation. These include a greater effort on the part of donor governments and agencies to become a united force to combat familiar obstacles such as the reluctance of a government to declare the beginnings of a famine or reluctance of the donor community to act earlier.

Secondly, a greater investment by the donor community in relatively small-scale food security systems such as pre-positioning food buffer stocks, in food-for-work programmes or, simply, in contributing to an effective food-distribution plan before the major crisis.

These measures and others are not prohibitively expensive, politically unacceptable or impossible to set up. They do, however, require a sustained commitment on the part of donors in between new humanitarian crises, certainly a willingness to separate humanitarian concern from power politics.

It is to be hoped that the Commons debate will acknowledge that famine prevention, in the short term, is largely a matter of political will and technical investment rather than an indulgent and extended debate on a re-ordering of international economic imbalance.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCES D'SOUZA,
Research Director,
International Disaster Institute,
85 Marylebone High Street, W1,
June 10.

Rights and abortion

From the Director and Secretary of British Agencies for Adoption & Fostering

Sir, Mrs Ann Winterton, MP's reported (May 21) hostile criticism of a judge's "scandalous" decision to override a mother's wishes by allowing her 15-year-old daughter and allowing her to have an abortion highlights the emotive reaction that bedevils the sensible resolution of the difficult issues in this sensitive area.

At least in the reported case it was clear that the child's welfare was the first and paramount consideration, but in the forthcoming *Gillick* case, in which the House of Lords will be asked to consider the legality of the DHSS circular on the advice and treatment for children under 16 in relation to contraception and abortion, the guiding legal principle has still to be resolved.

The Court of Appeal approached the case solely from a parental rights perspective, but this is not the inevitable approach and indeed it would be more consistent with over a century's legal development to consider the case in the light of children's interests.

Approaching the question from the latter perspective (tempered perhaps by a presumption that the parents' wishes represent the child's best interests, at any rate, up to the use of discretion), the acute problems (apparently ignored by the Court of Appeal but of which, sadly, this organisation has plenty of experience) of dealing with unwanted children or those of inadequate parents could more adequately be dealt with. Is it right that the treatment of such children should be entirely dependent upon the exercise of a parental right?

Even if the House of Lords upholds the pure parental rights approach it must be hoped that the uncertainties of the Court of Appeal's decision will be clarified by, for example, defining what amounts to an "emergency" (so as to justify "treatment"); spelling out what constitutes "advice" and what "information" (do parental rights really extend to preventing a child receiving (social) information?); and resolving the extent to which parental powers of control extend to 16 and 17-year-olds.

Yours faithfully,
TONY HALL,
Director and Secretary,
British Agencies for Adoption & Fostering,
11 Southwark Street, SE1,
May 30.

Drink, health and crime

From Mr D. T. Allsop and Mr W. M. Saunders

Sir, We refer to the recent publicity surrounding the OPCS (Office of Population Censuses and Surveys) survey carried out to assess the impact of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 1976, and firstly would like to make the observation that it is an interesting new development for government to assess the success or failure of legislation on the basis of an opinion poll.

As licensing law is a control measure it is not particularly surprising that its relaxation is popular. Whether it is good for the nation's drinking health is another matter. We feel sure that legislation to drastically reduce the duty on alcoholic beverages by, say, 50 per cent would meet with similar public approval. An increase in Scotland of 13 per cent in consumption since 1976 cannot be lightly dismissed.

Principle of consensus on pensions

From Mr T. S. McLeod

Sir, Twelve years ago I led the CBI team in a series of discussions with the Government, the opposition parties, the TUC and the pension industry which preceded the 1975 Act. Two previous attempts to give the bulk of the working population the sort of pensions enjoyed by managerial and professional staff had foundered when there had been a change of government before they could be implemented and this time the minister responsible, the late Brian O'Malley, said that he would go on negotiating and making concessions until he found a formula that we would all accept and undertake to stay with.

It was generally agreed that the Act that emerged was the best possible: not ideal but a compromise that would last. Just as it is better for the law to be certain than for it to be absolutely just, it is better for pension policy to be enduring than for it to be absolutely fair.

It has been suggested that the high cost of the earnings-related addition to the taxpayer of the twenty-first century has only just been discovered: actually it was pointed out in the debates of 1975 by Mr Norman Fowler and Mr Kenneth Clarke.

It has also been said that the original estimates of the Government Actuary were seriously in error: this was refuted in your columns on May 23 by the President of the Institute of Actuaries. He went on to say that what had changed was the willingness of the public to accept the costs. He was

clearly writing in ignorance of an opinion poll described by you the previous day which showed that over 70 per cent of the electorate thought that the scheme should not be changed.

This view was supported in evidence given to the enquiry by the CBI, the TUC, the Occupational Pension Group Joint Working Party, the National Association of Pension Funds and the Association of Consulting Actuaries. Opposition to the earnings-related scheme appears to have come mainly from academic economists uninhibited by experience of pension management.

This is not the place to repeat the arguments which led to the consensus of 1975, or to detail the problems and pitfalls of the fine recommended by the Green Paper. It is to urge that the principle of consensus should be retained and that only changes that will survive a change of government should be made.

As a suggestion, if it is believed that pay-as-you-go schemes are a burden on the work force but funded schemes are not, it would be simple enough to leave the basic pension as it stands but to fund the earnings-related addition. It might even be possible to persuade the opposition parties to accept this.

Yours faithfully,
T. S. McLEOD,
Little Woolgar Cottage,
Corfe Castle,
Wareham,
Dorset,
June 4.

Future of universities

From Mr James Pilditch

Sir, Sir Geoffrey Chandler, leading the Royal Society of Arts' initiative, "Industry Year 1986", has put his finger on a deep reason for Britain's decline. In a country that depends on industry, he says, we have an "anti-industrial" culture.

The truth of this has been shown by critics of Sir Keith Joseph's Green Paper on higher education. They say, to sum up, that to relate education more to the real world of work (as Sir Keith wants to do) will harm the quality of life.

Sir, nothing harms the quality of life more than poverty. Even those who believe in the merit of a pure, unrelated, academic education will concede that someone has to pay for it. A priority must surely be to generate the wealth necessary to the life we want.

The academic tradition has fine virtues, but it also has a lot to answer for. In a country that depends absolutely on its capacity to create wealth such separation is unrealistic. Nor is it any kindness to young people, the new generations, to tell them that their education is a waste of time.

Sir, when I left university I knew about Praxiteles and Piero della Francesca. But I couldn't do anything. Such education, enjoyable as it was, does little to meet the urgent needs of a declining nation in an increasingly competitive world or those of young people who need jobs.

Strasbourg law

From Mr N. S. Price

Sir, In his letter (June 5) Lord Devlin appears to invite governments to disobey the international rule of law in that they should "be wary of attending too closely" to the pronouncements of the European Court of Human Rights. If that is indeed desired, then it is possible for the Government to denounce the Convention by the prescribed procedure (article 65).

Only one state (Turkey) has ever done this and has since been readmitted, but before any such decision were taken consideration should be given to the political consequences. All members of the EEC adhere to the European Convention, which is also part of EEC law applied by the European Court in Luxembourg in its own field and is part of the structure of European integration.

Whatever the merits of the recent decision of the Strasbourg Court, the loss of sovereignty involved by adherence to the European Convention must be weighed against the general merits of European integration.

We should, moreover, remember the historical background to this Convention, particularly in this, the 40th anniversary year of the liberation of Europe from Nazi rule and the gross breaches of human rights that this involved.

Political stability and peace in Europe should not be sacrificed by the kind of isolationism advocated in your leader (June 1), particularly in the field of human rights.

Yours faithfully,
N. S. PRICE,
University of Buckingham,
School of Law,
Buckingham,
June 5.

Of course, relating education to work is a matter of emphasis, of balance, but no one is suggesting anything else.

I submit, Sir, that anything Sir Keith can do to bring education more in line with the real world is both overdue and greatly to be welcomed. In the long run it is the only way to sustain the quality of life we all cherish.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES PILDITCH,
62 Cadogan Square, SW1,
June 3.

Stonehenge alternative

From Mr D. A. Budgett

Sir, The situation of people who want to celebrate the solstice at Stonehenge is not comparable with that of Christians who cannot get access to cathedrals in an atheist country, as Dr Smith (June 7) maintains.

If the Christians were in the habit of building camp fires in the building, drilling holes in the walls and digging up the graves, I would have every sympathy with the atheist regime and for Dr Smith's analogy. However I am pleased to note that such behaviour among Christians is exceptional.

Yours sincerely,
D. A. BUDGETT,
40 Bodmin Avenue,
Macclesfield,
Cheshire,
June 7.

Reporting on Lebanon

From Mr D. J. McCarthy

Sir, Mr Robert Fisk can doubtless look after himself against the systematic attacks of which Mr Cannon's (June 6) is the latest. But self-defence tends to get discounted. Maybe someone uninvolved should say something.

I do not know what qualifications Mr Cannon has to be "more discerning" about the Lebanon than your other readers. For those who have known that country, the strength of Mr Fisk's reporting has been his consistently unblinkered understanding of the murderous factionalism of those who have ruined that country, of the nature of the social revolt which underlies Amal in particular and of the motives of *realpolitik* which have governed the policies of Syria and the other Arab elements involved.

His writing is certainly colourful. To the allegation that colour overstates fact, the best answer may be that on the essentials of his more harrowing reporting he has always been material from the correspondents of the *Financial Times* and *Le Monde* and other responsible papers. That, notably, has applied whether he was describing Druze collaboration with Syria, "Christian" collusion with Israel, or the excesses of Shia reaction after Sidon.

Mr Fisk's main detractors have been supporters of Israel. But he does not report on Israel. They would have had no occasion to complain had Israel's forces remained in their own country.

Yours truly,
D. J. MCCARTHY,
Church Farmhouse,
Sudbourne,
Woodbridge,
Suffolk.

Licensing is one aspect of social policy control over availability of alcohol, and a severe tightening of such laws has, in the past, had a very considerable effect on consumption. The availability of all drugs is a factor in the level of problems experienced, and it is hard to understand why anyone believes that greater availability of the drug alcohol should be an exception to this rule.

The current licensing situation forms a sound base for an explosion of alcohol problems when the country recovers from the current recession.

Yours faithfully,
D. T. ALLSOP,
(Executive Director, Scottish Council on Alcoholism),
W. M. SAUNDERS
(Director, Alcohol Studies Centre, Paisley College of Technology),
Scottish Council on Alcoholism,
147 Blythswood Street,
Glasgow.

ON THIS DAY

JUNE 11 1870

Charles Dickens was born on February 7, 1812, in Landport, a division of Portsmouth in Portsmouth. He died at Gadshill Place, Rochester, on June 9, 1870.

THE LATE

MR. CHARLES DICKENS.

The mere announcement that Charles Dickens is dead repeats the common sentence passed on all humanity. . . . We have had greater writers than he, but he was not one of them. He was not of our day and generation. For us just now this loss is our greatest. . . . There are minds of such delicate fibre that the very merits of an author, his mightiest gifts and his most special talents, only serve as food on which to nourish their prodigies. Such are they who, while forced to admit the wit, humour, and power of Charles Dickens, always added, "but he was vulgar." Yes, in one sense he was vulgar: he delighted in stretching the characters not of dukes and duchesses, but of the poor and lowly. He had listened to their wants and sorrows, seen them in their alleys and garrets, heard their accents and dialect by heart, and then, with a truth and liveliness all his own, he photographed them in his immortal works. In that sense alone was Charles Dickens "vulgar." He was of the people, and lived among them. He was not the close atmosphere of saloons or of a forcing house. In the open air of the streets, and woods, and fields, he lived, and had his being, and so he came into closer union with common men, and caught with an intuitive force and fluency of feature every detail of their daily life. His creations have become naturalized, so to speak, among all classes of the community, and are familiar to every man, boy, or girl. How many fine gentlemen and ladies, who never saw Pickwick or Sam Weller in the flesh, have laughed at their portraits by Charles Dickens. How many have been heartbroken at the sufferings of Oliver, been indignant at the brutality of Bill Sikes, wept over the fallen Nancy's cruel fate, and even sympathized with the terrible agony of Fagin in the condemned cell, who but for Charles Dickens would never have known of him. His great characters, such cruel wrongs, and such intensity of feeling existed in those lower depths of London life.

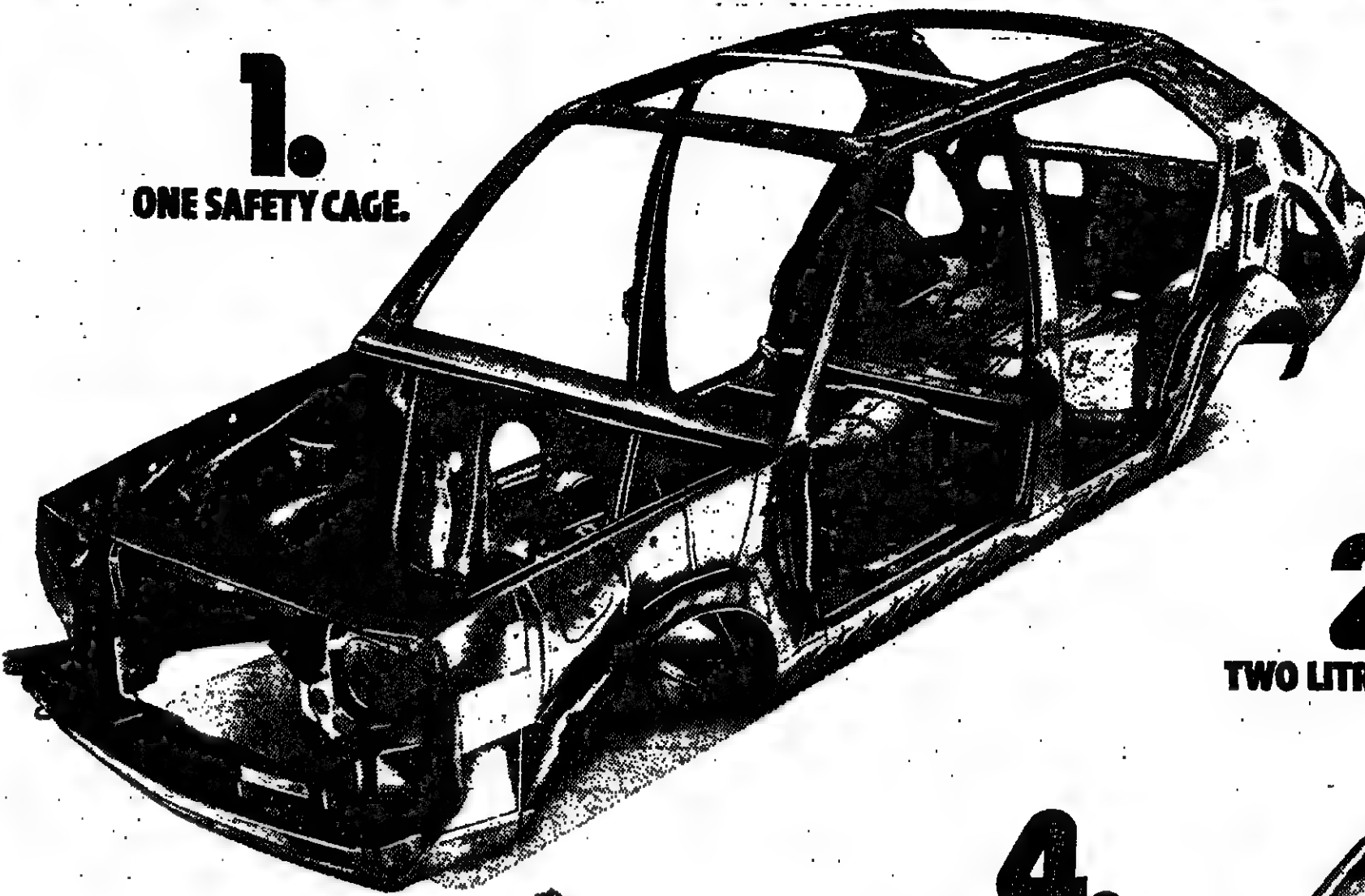
We have heard it objected also by gentlemen that Charles Dickens would never describe a "gentleman" and that he could never sketch the character of a "gentleman" but we have always observed that when put to the proof these male and female critics failed lamentably to establish their case.

We only insist, when we are told that Charles Dickens could not describe either a lady or a gentleman, that there are ladies and gentlemen in all ranks and classes of life, and that the inward delicacy and gentle feeling which we acknowledge as the only true criterion of the class may be found under the smock of the ploughboy as well as beneath the mantle of an earl.

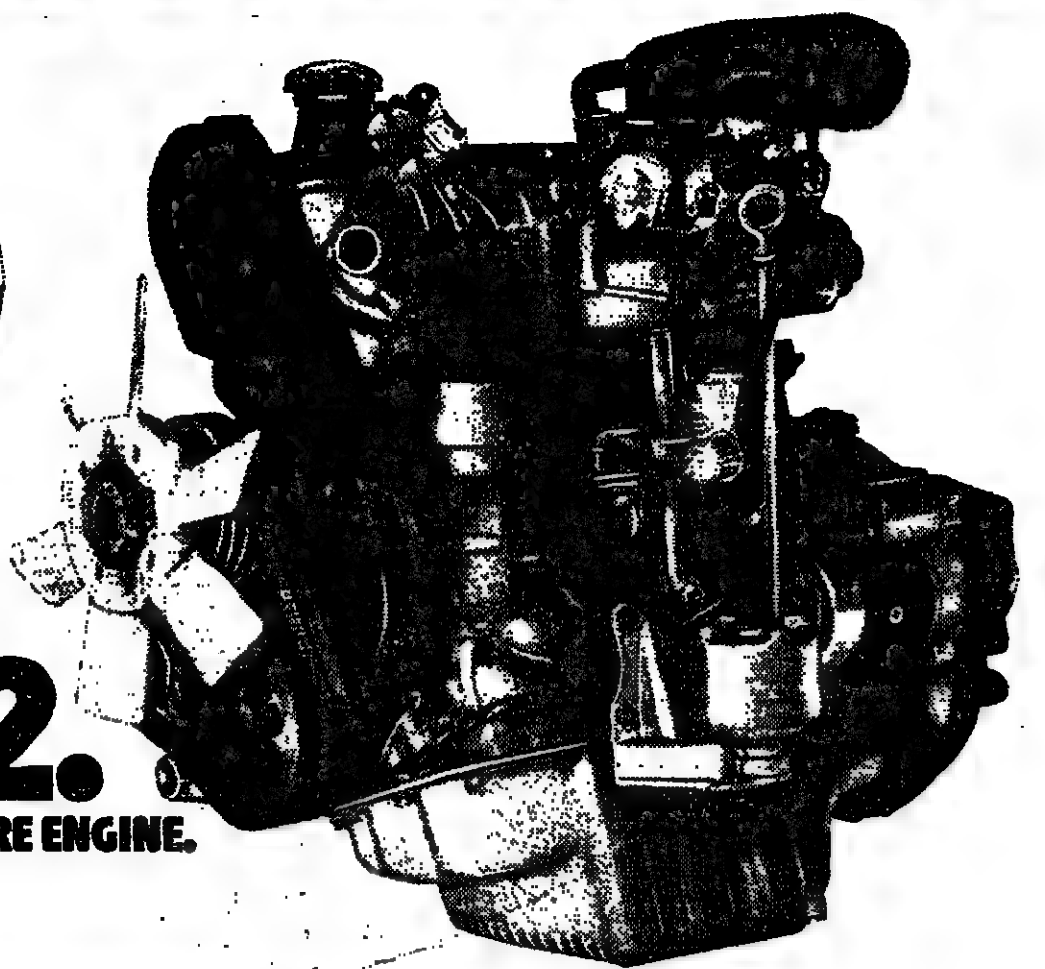
When a great writer, such as Dickens, was with his last breath describing his children in the secret of his soul, he said, "Be natural, my children, for the writer that is natural has fulfilled all the rules of Art." And this was eminently the case with Charles Dickens. His great characters have struck fast root in the hearts of his countrymen, for this, above all other reasons, that they are natural - natural both relatively to the writer who created them, and to the station in life in which they are supposed to live. Like the giant who revived as soon as he touched his mother earth, Charles Dickens was never so strong as when he threw himself back on the native soil of the social scene which he had been born and bred, whose faults, foibles, and follies he could portray with a truth and vigour denied to any other man. That he was eminently successful may be proved by his works. He is gone, indeed, but they remain behind and will long speak for him. 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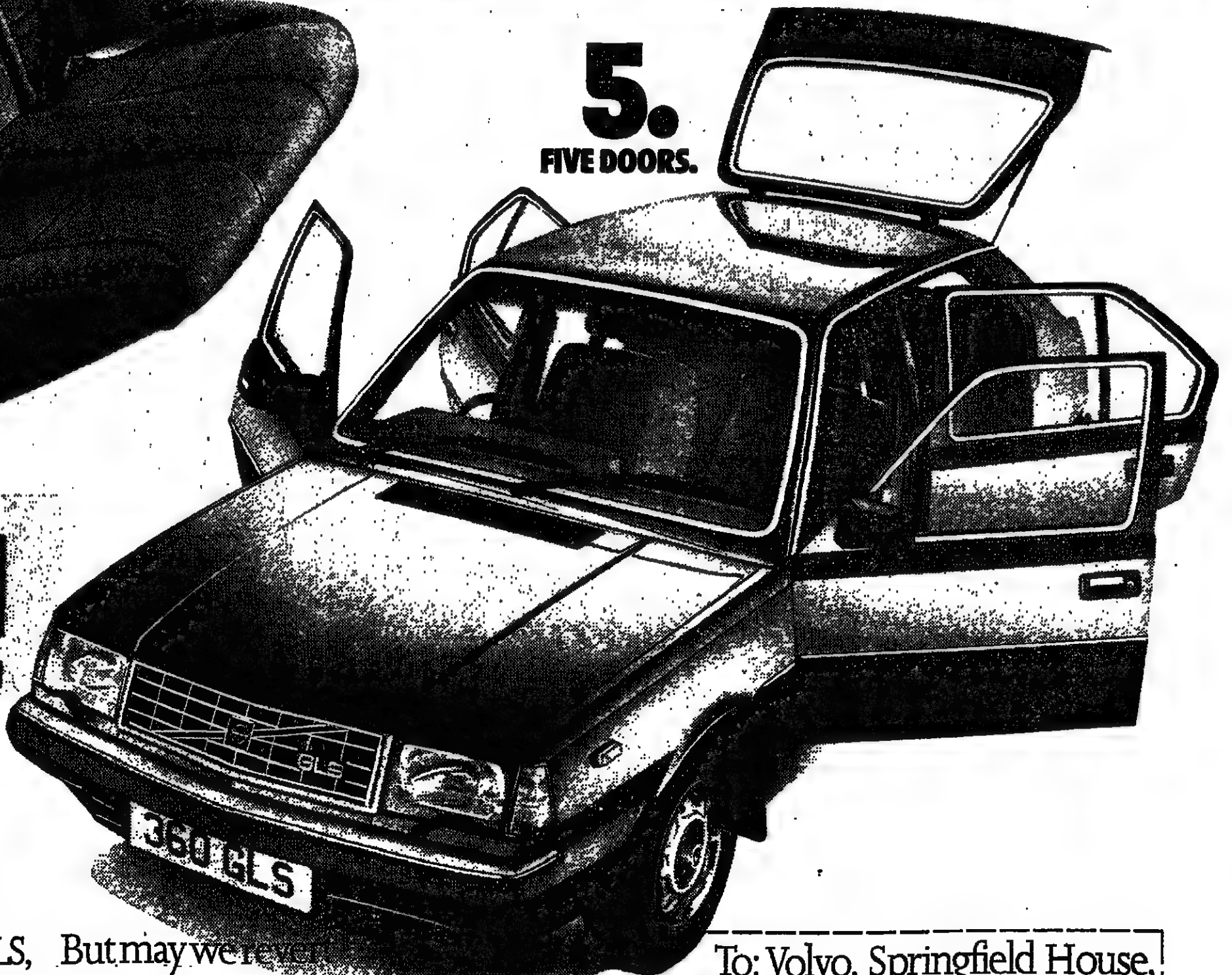
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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Debenhams - clear case for a Tebbit reference

Roland (Tiny) Rowland is, of course, obsessed with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which more than once investigated Lorrho's attempts to ambush House of Fraser but was not asked to examine the bid for the company, made admittedly with a splendid 29.9 per cent-of-the-shares send-off from Tiny himself, by the Al-Fayed brothers who are the masters now. But he is surely right, if from the wrong motives, in calling for the Burton bid for Debenhams to be referred to the commission.

The potential buying power of a group that included not only Burtons and Debenhams but subsequently Habitat and Mothercare must surely keep merchandise suppliers awake at night. If Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State at the Department of Trade and Industry, is anxious to see a reasonable balance maintained between a sorely-pressed manufacturing sector and a clutch of the biggest retailers in the land, then he should have no hesitation in referring Burton's offer.

That might not please the dealers who piled into Debenhams shares both before and after Ralph Halpern formally made Burton's bid public. Debenhams closed last night at 399p, which is 56p above Burton's opening offer: a reference would deflate speculative interest and the price. But even if the auction of Debenhams was suspended for six months, and even if the MMC were to rule out Burton and Habitat Mothercare as bidders, Debenhams' days as an independent company are surely numbered.

As a retailer, Robert Thornton has too few claims on shareholders' loyalty. A true retailing trading profit last year of £4m for a group of Debenhams' size is desirous. Mr Thornton's retailing philosophy, revised at regular intervals, is almost devoid of credibility.

Depending always on the asking price, the group that might profit most from acquiring Debenhams is House of Fraser/Harrods. Debenhams was outsmarted by House of Fraser in the earlier takeover contest for Harrods. The logic of such a link is even stronger now. Debenhams has stores in areas, like East Anglia, where Fraser has no outlets. Putting Woolbeck Finance with Fraser/Harrods credit business would probably result in a profit of £40m in the first year. Although a major retailing group, turning over £1,200m a year, Fraser/Harrods has to be wary of being left behind in the scramble for size and high street clout.

There are, thus, at least three reasons why Fraser has picked up 5 per cent in Debenhams. If there is to be a carve up, or an alternative "consortium" bid, it needs an admission ticket to the talks. Ironically, Fraser, now a privately-owned company, finds itself without the marketable paper that would have given it freedom of manoeuvre on its own account.

Time for reforms in Hong Kong

Overseas Trust Bank opened for business as usual yesterday in Hong Kong after last week's government bail-out; normality was returning to the colony's financial markets. On the foreign exchanges dealings resumed in forward Hong Kong dollar contracts and in typical Hong Kong style, the stock market promptly overreacted to Friday's overreaction. Having tumbled nearly 86 points in the wake of the OTB failure, the Hang Seng index bounced back more than 54 points up at 1571.87.

So the rescue, which will probably cost the Hong Kong taxpayer about £200 million, seems to have worked and the danger of a serious knock-on effect spreading through the banking system avoided. Four present or former officials of OTB have now been charged in connection with the bank's failure which appears to have been caused by multi-million dollar frauds.

The issue which Hong Kong authorities must now address with some urgency is the need for reform and tightening of banking supervision. Eagerness to encourage Hong Kong's development as an international financial centre free of tiresome regulations may explain why the authorities have not acted before. In the long run, the damage to confidence caused by bank failures poses much greater threats to Hong Kong's future prosperity and development than the irritation of extra regulation.

Without a central bank to act as lender of last resort at times of crisis and an insurance scheme to protect depositors, Hong Kong's banking system is particularly vulnerable to contagion if one part is infected. On occasions the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank acts as a central bank providing financial support to institutions in trouble but the lack of a deposit insurance scheme surely needs rectifying.

It is apparent that some of the big Hong Kong banks oppose the idea because they would have to pick up most of the tab for a scheme which is likely to benefit most depositors of smaller, more vulnerable banks. This is true but it is hardly the point. The big clearing banks raised exactly the same objections before a deposit protection fund was set up in the United Kingdom.

Sudden reluctance among SE rebels

Those Stock Exchange rebels who were so vociferous in the weeks leading up to last week's momentous votes now seem to be overcome with the need to catch up on lost business time. So far, not one has volunteered to put himself at the mercy of a democratic vote. Nominations must be in by 3.30 this afternoon for candidature of the Stock Exchange Council but by yesterday evening the steering committee that coordinated opposition to the council's reform proposals has failed to produce a single candidate. All were pleading pressure of work, and bemoaning the fact that only large firms can spare their people for the many hours necessary to sit on the council.

"It is essential that the independent London firms have representation on the council," said Martin Walters of Schavieren, before excusing himself from coming forward. So the 12 London seats seem likely to be contested by just 13 people, 11 of them retiring by rotation who are offering their services again. The other candidates are from the larger stables of Scrimgeour Vickers and Cape-Cure Myers.

The rebels, having scored a narrow victory against constitution, are not failing over each other to have a say in how the situation can be saved. Yet the rescue operation cannot be delayed. This afternoon the Stock Exchange Council meets: top of the agenda how to accommodate outside institutions who are hammering on the door. Members have now said they can come in, but on what terms?

The outsiders will not remain enamoured of the idea of the London Stock Exchange if it cannot sort out its own business with a degree of efficiency. The Bank of England is pressing for a speedy decision so that the new gilt market makers may know the rules of the game they will be playing. The Stock Exchange itself is increasingly aware of the build-up of prospective competition.

Reuters looks on the equity market as the best thing since foreign exchange acting as a place to employ its technology and talents. Its plans for the Instinet system exceedingly ambitious, and make the prospect of a rival market at least a possibility.

If London's "independent" brokers want to make sure that they have a business as well as independence, they should surely find time to stand for the council, not merely time to criticize its schemes.

Surge in retail spending as inflation outlook brightens

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Inflationary pressures eased last month while spending in the shops surged to the second highest monthly total on record, according to official figures released yesterday.

The figures, which were much better than expected, support the Government's view that the rate of inflation will turn down in the second half of the year.

Industry's raw material and fuel costs fell by 1.1 per cent last month, with more than half of the fall due to cheaper food. Costs were 3.6 per cent up on a year earlier, the lowest rate since November 1982. In April, the rate was 5.2 per cent.

Although the pound was stronger last month than in April, Whitehall statisticians said that this was not an important factor. Rather, lower world food prices and an across-the-board weakening of com-

modity prices produced the fall in industry's costs.

Manufacturing industry's output - or "factory gate" - prices rose only modestly last month, in line with the easing of cost pressures. They were up 0.2 per cent, the smallest rise since August, and the year's change eased from 5.7 per cent in April, to 5.6 per cent.

Producer price figures take several months to feed through to retail price inflation. Figures due on Friday are expected to show that the inflation rate topped 7 per cent last month.

The easing of inflationary pressures now showing through should produce a fall in the inflation rate in the next six months, but the Treasury's 5 per cent inflation forecast for the end of the year will also require a substantial reduction in mortgage rates.

High mortgage rates have yet to suffice spending in the shops, as the May retail sales figures showed. There was an unexpected 1 per cent jump in the volume of sales, with all types of shops benefiting from the extra spending.

Sales volume was up 5.4 per cent on a year earlier, while sales value, which totalled £6,400 million last month, was 10 per cent up on May 1984.

The Retail Consortium said that the figures were very encouraging in the light of the poor May weather, and predicted continuing buoyancy in the coming months.

The index of sales volume in May, 115.2 (1980=100), was second only to the 115.6 record achieved last December. In the latest three months, sales volume rose by 1 per cent, to stand 5 per cent up on a year earlier.

The strength of retail sales, in spite of very high mortgage rates, is explained by strong growth in real incomes for those in work, and a willingness to borrow on hire purchase to finance spending.

Recent official figures for hire purchase and other instalment credit show advances running at £1 billion a month.

Telecom link

British Telecom announced plans for a "hot-line" telephone service linking businesses in London and New York. The service, to be called Citydirect, will offer international companies such as hotels and banks fast, flexible and cost-effective voice and data communications. BT said.

IN BRIEF

Jellicoe to head Davy

Lord Jellicoe is to succeed Mr Peter Benson as chairman of Davy Corporation, Britain's leading plant engineering group, after the company's annual meeting in October.

The Government is understood to have accepted that for the time being Lord Jellicoe, aged 67, should continue as chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, the export promotion body, although Davy tenders for most big international plant contracting projects. Mr Benson said yesterday that the matter was "being looked at very carefully but there should be no objections".

Davy also announced yesterday that Dr Graham Raper, a deputy chairman of the company, is being appointed chief executive.

Honda denial

Honda denied a report in *The Times* that it plans to provide Austin Rover with engines.

Amersham rise

Amersham International is to pay a final dividend of 3.8p, making a total of 6p (5p) for the year to March 31. Pretax profits rose by 34 per cent to £17.1 million. *Tempos*, page 19

Banque Nationale de Paris is raising up to \$600 million (476 million) with a new type of 10-year floating rate note embodying credit facility features. Underwriters are committed under the deal to take the paper over a certain period.

Rental profits up

Electronic Rentals, the television and video rental company, lifted profits £4 million, from £11.2 million to £15.2 million in the year to March 31. Turnover rose from £193 million to £197 million and the dividend was unchanged at 3.2p. *Tempos*, page 19

Hong Kong sale

The Hongkong & Shanghai Bank the largest bank in Hong Kong, is selling its temporary headquarters in the Admiralty building for about HK\$200 million (£20 million) through Knight Frank, Kan & Baillieu, estate agents.

British Land's £25 million development with Power Securities for a shopping centre, including a possible hotel at St Stephen's Green in Dublin has been given planning permission.

No bid plan

British Syphon, responding to press speculation, denied any intention of making a renewed bid for James Hargest, and said it was not part of its present strategy to acquire shares in Hargest.

Nicaragua talks

Nicaragua's central bank chairman, Señor Joaquín Cuadra Chamorro, and the finance minister, Señor William Hupper, will meet commercial bankers in New York next Monday to discuss rescheduling of the country's \$4.2 billion (£3.30 billion) debt. Nicaragua is hoping for a one-year extension of its repayment terms.

Hanson Trust seeks £519m

By Ian Griffiths

Hanson Trust is asking shareholders for £519 million in Britain's second biggest rights issue ever, and the biggest wholly in the private sector.

The announcement set the City alight with speculation about potential takeover targets, with Bower Incorporated and Pilkington Brothers emerging as favourites. Some brokers believe that in the wake of the fund-raising, Hanson Trust could afford a cash acquisition of up to £1.5 billion either at home or in the United States.

The rights issue has been split into two parts in an attempt to make the overall package attractive to shareholders. A straightforward one for six rights issue at 185p, which is available to ordinary shareholders, aims to raise £370.3 million. A further £148.7 million will be raised through an offer of 5.75 per cent convertible cumulative redeemable preference shares of £1.

This is available to ordinary shareholders on the basis of one for nine and to holders of the 8 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock on the basis of one for every £11.70 of nominal value held at June 5.

In a further attempt to ease the burden on shareholders, both the ordinary and preference shares are being issued partly paid. The first instalment on the ordinary shares of £1 is payable by July 4 with the remaining 85p falling due on September 27. An initial 50p payment on the preference shares must be made, again by July 4 although the remaining 50p must be paid by August 30.

Describing the package, Lord Hanson, the group's chairman, said: "The board believes that the combination of ordinary shares offered at a discount to the market and preference shares offering an attractive yield and conversion into ordinary shares gives shareholders an opportunity to increase their investment in Hanson on advantageous terms."

Lord Hanson said: "This will enable the company to take greater advantage of opportunities and will provide a strong stable platform for internal growth and from which the company will contemplate major acquisitions."

Last week Hanson Trust announced interim pretax profits of £106.1 million, up from £64.4 million for the six months to March 31. *Tempos*, page 19



Lord Hanson: City trying to spot his target

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Selincourt 'cheeky,' says d'Abo

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

The Bank of International Settlements has called for immediate action to reduce the United States budget deficit in order to ensure a soft landing for the dollar and an improvement in the unsustainable US trade deficit.

Giving a warning of the financial disruption which could ensue from a rapid fall in the dollar, the BIS says in its annual report, "Preparing the way for an orderly unwinding of the US external imbalance should figure as a priority item on policy-making agendas."

Achieving this is one of the key preconditions for sustaining world growth along with avoiding a resurgence of inflation, the BIS says.

The Basel-based central bankers' bank is gloomy about employment prospects, especially in Europe, and says that the success achieved in the fight against inflation looks more modest when measured against the vast under-utilization of human resources. "In Europe there is little prospect of any really substantial reduction in unemployment even if growth were to continue at a moderate pace for some years to come," the BIS says.

It blames this on rigidities in "price-reaching changes in the way prices and wages are set," suggesting, for instance, a move towards linking pay with changing profitability in individual firms.

"Unless we can restore a greater degree of two-way flexibility to price and wage formation, it would be vain to expect our industrial economies to achieve a growth performance fast enough to absorb unemployment in the foreseeable future," the BIS report states.

The BIS points to the dangers which would arise if some large countries adopted more expansionary fiscal policies to counter a slowdown in US and says that removing structural rigidities is the best contribution European countries could make to sustaining world growth.

The BIS sounds a warning about rapid deregulation in financial markets and says it must be kept firmly under control by supervisory authorities. It also firmly endorses limited intervention on the foreign exchanges either to back up domestic policy shifts or to puncture one-way speculative bubbles.

Well-timed, large-scale intervention "can lead to a better balance in the operation of the market."

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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

A quiet day on the foreign exchanges featured the growing strength of the dollar.

Sterling traded in a band of \$1.2565-1.2630, closing at \$1.2565, the range of the day.

The dollar's strength was mainly the result of the federal reserve's failure to cut its discount rate.

bottom end of its range at \$1.2583 (\$1.2680).

The dollar range from DM 3.0870 to DM 3.1080, closing at DM 3.1025-S.

Dealers said that they expected the US currency to continue to make gains, having

Sterling was further unsettled by oil price worries, the price of North Sea Brent crude falling 20 cents to \$25.45 a barrel during the day. In addition, Abu Dhabi's possible price cut overshadowed the market.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

| Market rates over a range | Market rates close to | 1 month | 3 month |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| June 10 | \$1.8776-1.2590 | 0.69-0.51c prem | 1.48-1.45c prem |
| New York | \$1.8755-1.2630 | 0.41-0.38c prem | 1.22-1.15c prem |
| London | \$1.2581-1.7368 | 0.59-0.57c prem | 1.48-1.45c prem |
| Amsterdam | \$1.4257-4.4104 | 0.59-0.57c prem | 1.48-1.45c prem |
| Frankfurt | 78.38-78.91 | 0.59-0.57c prem | 1.48-1.45c prem |
| Paris | 78.41-78.92 | 0.59-0.57c prem | 1.48-1.45c prem |

| | | | | |
|-----------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| openhagen | 13.8890-14.0300k | 13.9804-14.0107k | 34'-2" sps prem | 10'-0" sps prem |
| ublin | 1.2469-1.2498p | 1.2468-1.2479p | 38 prem-6p disc | 38 prem-6p disc |
| | 2.8986-2.9130m | 2.8981-2.9045m | 22'-21" of prem | 67'-61" of prem |

[illegible]

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Arabic peso | 320-345 | Japan | 250.40-250.50 |
| New Zealand dollar | 2.80-2.82 | Italy | 1872-1874 |
| | A. 5772-4 8176 | Switzerland (Swiss) | 62.50-62.55 |

[illegible]

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-------------------|-----|----|-----|-----|----|
| 2.8 | 2.4 | .. | 280 | 248 | Throg Secured Cap | 275 | .. | 4.9 | 3.1 | .. |
| 7.9 | 4.5 | .. | 187 | 147 | Trans Oceania | 155 | .. | 3.2 | 3.4 | .. |
| 2.8 | 3.5 | .. | 180 | 105 | Tribune | 108 | .. | .. | .. | .. |

[illegible]

[illegible]

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|------|-------|------|------|--------------|-------|-------|----------|
| an Growth | 48.6 | 52.7 | +0.1 | | Pet Share Fd | 15.6 | 15.8 | .. 10.00 |
| an Smaller Cos | 73.2 | 77.2 | +0.4 | | Protections | 494.8 | 527.6 | .. 1.00 |
| Ash (Growth) | 87.4 | 108.6 | +2.4 | 1.54 | Stable Fds | 96.1 | 94.3 | .. 1.00 |

[illegible]

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-------|-------|------|------|---|
| Net Accounts | 388.6 | 417.7 | +0.7 | 4.81 | TOUCHE PERMANENT Herald House, 2, Princes Dock, London EC4A 3AT 07-249 1250 |
| WIP | 128.4 | 127.8 | +0.5 | 5.51 | |
| Net Accounts | 278.0 | 289.3 | +1.3 | 5.57 | |
| WIP | 79.2 | 80.4 | +1.2 | 5.95 | |

[illegible]

| | | | | |
|------------|--------|--------|------|------|
| Australian | \$18 | \$8.20 | +0.4 | 0.75 |
| Do Acc | \$3.7 | \$8.20 | +0.4 | 0.75 |
| Capital | \$55.6 | \$8.20 | -1.0 | 4.08 |

[illegible]

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------|-------|------|-----|--------------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| Eq Inc | 180.5 | 182.1 | -1.9 | | Scottish | 235.5 | 232.4 | +3.1 | 17.35 |
| Account | 202.6 | 216.6 | -1.9 | 3.5 | Do Accum | 335.8 | 357.8 | -1.0 | 6.98 |
| | | | | | Goulders Cos | 146.9 | 155.5 | -0.7 | 2.57 |

[illegible]

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|------|-------|------|-----|
| ALLIANCE | AUSIMM | 36.3 | 38.1 | +0.1 | 1.6 |
| Alcanes Res. Holdings, Boston | UK Trust | 87.8 | 104.1 | +0.2 | 2.9 |
| 56273 | European Growth | 25.8 | 27.3 | +0.1 | 1.3 |
| | Home Know. | | | | |

[illegible]

The Directors of Bunzl plc are the persons responsible for the information contained in this advertisement. To the best of their knowledge and belief (having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case) the information contained in this advertisement is in accordance with the facts.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Building societies poised for unsecured lending drive

The future shape of the building society industry under the guiding hand of the Government became clearer last week.

The speech by Mr Ian Stewart, the Treasury Economic Secretary, to the Building Societies Association conference was hardly a revolutionary progression from the proposals in last year's green paper. It did show, however, that many criticisms of the green paper have been taken aboard by the Government.

Mr Stewart left the impression that the new legislation would do more to protect the status quo within the industry than the original green paper proposals. On the other hand, growing competition between the societies and the high street banks will be encouraged.

The green paper never set out to turn the world upside-down for building societies. Any new activities they undertook were to be introduced in a gradual and orderly manner and would remain a relatively tiny proportion of their traditional home loan business. Mr Stewart endorsed that approach, reiterating that at least 90 per cent of a society's business must be in ordinary mortgage lending.

Of the remaining 10 per cent, only half may be used on unsecured lending, the most direct overlap with high street banking services.

Although a small proportion, the amount of money made available to unsecured borrowers if all the eligible societies went into this type of business would still be huge. On present figures they would be able to lend about £4 billion immediately, compared with similar bank lending about £9 billion.

A large number of societies would plunge into unsecured lending with enthusiasm. It is common knowledge that some proportion of building society lending is already used for consumer spending on items such as cars and holidays instead of house purchase. The societies are happy to turn a blind eye to this. Several have even started advertising the availability of consumer loans as long as they are secured against the borrowers' property.

The Bristol & West for instance, is willing to lend up to £30,000 this way, even at a time when mortgage funds among many societies are scarce.

Against that amount, the £5,000 limit per borrower the Government proposes to put on unsecured lending looks paltry.

Unsecured building society loans are also likely to prove a hit with the public. The Bristol & West's consumer loans cost 16.75 per cent, several percentage points below a normal bank personal loan rate. The rate charged by a society on an unsecured loan would almost certainly be higher than on a secured loan but their ability to lead competitively with the banks in this area can hardly be doubted.

Mr Stewart went considerably further than the green paper in permitting expansion in the building societies. For the first time societies will be allowed to set up subsidiaries in other EEC countries to make secured and unsecured loans, or to invest in other institutions doing so.

The number of societies wanting to do this is likely to be small and limited to the biggest. Abbey National already has an agency in Brussels monitoring the opportunities for starting business on the Continent. A number of other societies have agencies in West Germany to attract deposits from British soldiers stationed there. From here it would not be a great step to set up fully fledged branches or subsidiaries, probably lending to expatriates initially before broadening out their business.



Ian Stewart: endorsing gradual approach

to 40 per cent of the first year's premium.

While any society, however small, can move into these services the ability to make unsecured loans, own land and operate abroad is confined to those with commercial assets - their mortgage loans - above £100 million. This distinction between large and small societies led to fears among the smaller ones that they would become redundant and be swallowed by the big ones soon after the new legislation came in.

Indeed, the competitive pressures produced by wider building society powers led many societies to believe that big was beautiful. While small societies have been merging with large ones for years a relatively new phenomenon has appeared: the merger of two societies of roughly equal size to make a bigger and, supposedly, more competitive one.

One of the most interesting changes from the green paper was the dropping of several proposals to make mergers easier. Indeed, Mr Stewart has made the whole process more difficult. Instead of reducing the number of members needed to be in favour of a merger, as the green paper suggested, Mr Stewart kept the figure at 75 per cent.

He kept in a green paper requirement for 50 per cent of borrowers to be in favour.

Borrowers had not had a say before. And he abandoned the suggestion that societies could independently canvass members of a target society, promising them a special bonus if they agreed to a merger which they own board had rejected.

Recent experience has shown that mergers, particularly between societies of similar size, are difficult. Several planned mergers have run into snags this year. Normally the problem is not the disagreement of the members, but that may be changing.

The planned marriage between the Leeds Permanent and the Leeds & Holbeck for example, was called off. Although the Leeds & Holbeck had an 83 per cent majority of members in favour the first time round, the management was not confident that it would get the necessary 75 per cent a second time and called a halt.

Moreover, borrowers are likely to have a greater interest in the development of their society than traditionally apathetic investors. They have a longer term commitment and, if a merger could lead to higher mortgage rates, borrowers can be expected to shout more loudly than investors.

For the same reason, the likelihood that big societies would choose to convert themselves into ordinary companies looks more remote than it did at the time of the green paper. Agreement from investors and borrowers would be necessary, the same as if a society was being taken over by an outside organization like a bank.

As the large societies move forward to compete with the banks on their own ground, the position of the small societies looks safer than it did a few months ago. Mr Stewart made a point of saying that the desirability of simplifying merger procedures, but the likelihood of the present 190 societies shrinking to a mere 10, as some were predicting last year, is extremely remote.

Richard Thomson

Law Report June 11 1985 Court of Appeal

Benefit 'gross income' excludes expenses

Chief Adjudication Officer v Hogg

Before Lord Justice Griffiths, Lord Justice Slade and Lord Justice Lloyd (Judgment delivered May 23)

The gross amount of earnings for the purpose of awarding family income supplement was to be arrived at before deduction of tax but after deduction of the expenses that were allowable in arriving at the taxable sum.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the Chief Adjudication Officer from a decision of a social security commissioner, who had allowed an appeal by the claimant, Mr William Hogg, of Hogg & Widdows, 11, Church Street, Leeds, from a decision of the Leeds Supplementary Benefit Appeal Tribunal.

Mr John Laws for the Chief Adjudication Officer; Mr Mark Rowland for the claimant.

LORD JUSTICE SLADE said that the claimant was the vicar of a parish in Yorkshire. He lived in a rent-free parsonage house provided for him, which he had to maintain, heat and light.

The case concerned the proper method to be employed in ascertaining his net family income for the purpose of family income supplement, pursuant to a claim made by him on November 21, 1981.

Section 1 (2) of the Family Income Supplement Act 1970 provided: "A benefit, to be known as a family income supplement shall be paid (on claim duly made therefor) for any family in Great Britain if the weekly amount of its resources, so far as taken into account for the purposes of this Act, falls short of the prescribed amount."

The formula for ascertaining the prescribed amount for any family was to be found in section 2. It was not in dispute that at the date of the claim, in the present case, the prescribed amount in relation to the claimant's family was £104.50. The question was whether the weekly amount of the family's "resources" was less than that.

Section 4 (1) of the Act provided: "The resources of a family taken into account for the purposes of this Act shall be the aggregate of its normal gross income, of its normal gross income, excluding, except where regulations otherwise provide, the income of any child."

Section 2 (2), so far as material, provided that a person's normal gross income and the weekly amount thereof shall be calculated or estimated in such manner as regulations may provide; and regulations made for the purpose of providing for the calculation or estimation of the amount of any income...

The general rule laid down by regulation 2 (2) of the Family Income Supplement (General) Regulations (SI 1980 No 1437) was that the weekly amount of the normal gross income from earnings was to be calculated or estimated (a) in the case of a person who was paid weekly, by reference to the average of his earnings over the five pay-weeks immediately preceding the date on which his claim was made; and (b) in the case of a person who was paid monthly, by reference to the average of his earnings over the two pay-months immediately preceding that date.

Regulation 2 (3) provided: "In so far as a person's earnings from any gainful occupation comprise salary, wages or fees related to a fixed period, the gross amount thereof shall be taken into account and so far as a person's earnings from any gainful occupation do not comprise salary, wages or fees related to a fixed period, the net profit or net income shall be taken into account."

In each of the two preceding months the claimant received from the Church Commissioners a stipend comprising "taxable payments" of £425.59 and "non-taxable payments" of £103.59. He actually received in each of those two months, after deduction of tax and national insurance contributions, a net total sum of £496.99.

In his letter which accompanied his claim he said that the non-taxable payment was "an allowance for the claimant's travelling, telephone, secretarial assistance, uniform, postage, and so on, wholly and necessarily incurred in the performance of his duties."

During the year 1982/83 those expenses (leaving aside sums paid to his wife for secretarial assistance) had amounted to £1,229 (an average of £102.42 a month). He submitted that the purpose of applying the family income supplement his monthly salary should be treated as being £425.59 less 1/2 of £1,229, that is £233.17.

The adjudication officer rejected the claimant's submission, basing his calculation on the gross "taxable payment" of £425.59 a month received in each of the two relevant months.

He assessed the claimant's normal weekly gross earnings as £98.21 and added £7.96 representing the weekly value of one third of the monthly "non-taxable payment" of £103.59. He regarded that one week as a pie maker. The only other deduction was for the value of the claimant's private expenses.

As the total of £106.17, thus calculated as representing the weekly amount of the family's "resources", was less than the prescribed amount of £104.50, he decided that family income supplement was not payable.

The refusal of the officer to award the supplement was confirmed on appeal by the Social Security Commissioner. The claimant then appealed to the Social Security Commissioner.

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COMMERZBANK

RIGHTS OFFER

ISSUE OF PROFIT-SHARING CERTIFICATES

By virtue of the authority granted at the Annual Meeting of the Company held on 15th May 1985, the Board of Management has decided to issue DM.425,000,000 nominal Profit-Sharing Certificates. The Profit-Sharing Certificates are being offered at par by way of rights to the Company's shareholders on the basis of:

One DM.100 nominal Profit-Sharing Certificate for every four shares of DM.50 nominal held.

The Profit-Sharing Certificates are being offered on the terms of the Company's announcement dated June 1985 in which the rights attaching to the Profit-Sharing Certificates are set out in full. Copies of the announcement with an English translation, are available on request at the office of the London Paying Agent, S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

It is not intended to seek quotation for the Profit-Sharing Certificates on The Stock Exchange, London.

PROCEDURE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Holders in the United Kingdom wishing to take up rights must lodge the following:

Bearer Share Certificates—Coupon No. 44
London Deposit Certificates for marking—Square No. 7
and apply during the subscription period (11th June, 1985 to 20th June, 1985 inclusive, at the offices of the London Paying Agent—

S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.,
Bond Department,
10 King William Street,
London, EC4R 9AS
between 10.00 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. where lodgement forms are obtainable.

Payment must be made in full on application. Temporary Receipts will be issued.

Holders wishing to make payment in Sterling should agree the applicable rate of exchange

COMPUTER HORIZONS/1

The face on the end of a telephone

By Richard Sanson

In the last few years, a telephone user in John O'Grada has been able to dial direct to someone in Palermo. We accept this as normal, but who thinks of the expensive maze of ageing telephone wire and antiquated exchanges through which the call has to pass?

It has taken 60 years and awesome expense to enable us to dial Europe. But, we still have considerable problems especially if it is not the spoken word but text and numbers, that we want to push down international lines, as data passing from one computer to another. These problems should be solved, again rather expensively, in the next year or two.

But Europe's telecommunications engineers are now looking ahead to the 1990s, when they foresee that pictures will have to pass down the lines, as well as voice and data. They want to lay down an integrated digital broadband network across Europe, but at a reasonable cost. An aim which needs a lot of research.

It would be sensible and cheaper to do it together this time. So the European Commission is asking the member states for money, to finance a project for Research and development into Advanced Communications technologies in Europe, or RACE for short. Like most EEC research projects, however worthy, RACE is having a shaky start.

Last week at a meeting of the research ministers in Luxembourg, all seemed lost. The Commission was asking for Ecu 2.2m (£13m) extra cash for the first "definition" phase. But the British and the Germans felt that the money should come out of the Community's overall research budget, while the French argued that the work should be carried out by the European conference of postal and telecommunications authorities, and not by the EEC at all. This disagreement could mean that the whole project could slip back, or even be shelved.

However, overnight, Karl-Heinz Narjes, the Commissioner for Industry, did some fast talking, and the following day the ministers reached a qualified agreement that an urgent start should be made. The money would indeed have to come from the existing research funds, probably from

the "normal" funds, but the date of his claim. There was no reason to "gross income" in the calculations should bear ordinary everyday income, as opposed to "normal" income. A strike was a situation and if a man is asked what he normally would not answer anything; he would not be earning so much as he was not working at the moment because of a strike. Lordship agreed with the claim that a man on strike earning his "normal" income within the meaning of the law, therefore his average would not be calculated as 2(2) by reference to the fact he was on strike. The judge said that the claimant's average would not be calculated as 2(2) by reference to the fact he was on strike. The judge said that the claimant's average would not be calculated as 2(2) by reference to the fact he was on strike.

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Labour's high-tech vision

THE WEEK

Bill Johnstone
Technology Correspondent

In high-tech terms, Britain is fast becoming a "peasant" community and urgent action is needed to develop the skills vital to future economic growth, warns a Labour Party report. Labour's blue-print for the development of computers and related sciences envisages a Britain where the Government was committed to spend billions of pounds on an electronic-industrial strategy.

The new technology policy document was unveiled last week in London by Roy Hattersley, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party and Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Not surprisingly, it attacks current Government inactivity, the growing information technology trade gap, the vocationalism of interest rates and Britain's poor educational record. All have been expressed in a series of papers published in the last two years by bodies such as the National Economic Development Office, the House of Lords and industrial advisers to the Government. The sources do not matter, Labour leadership has clearly committed itself to implementing a high technology industrial policy in which the Luddites - unionised or not - will be given little sympathy.

The "domination of the economy (by new technology) is now inevitable" claims the strategy. An industrial policy to encourage the expansion of that technology is also inevitable it says.

Opposition would not be tolerated: Hattersley warned. "Industries - old and new - which do not take advantage of the benefit which new technology brings will simply find themselves out of business. And workers who attempt to hinder its progress will be trampled down by more efficient competition."

Many employers of opposite political persuasion to Mr Hattersley have used

that argument in the past but not been given much sympathy. He continued, "In fact, very little of the last five years' increases in unemployment has been the result of new technology... What is certain is that in the long-term resistance to new technology will produce more unemployment not less. We have no choice but to accept new technology. We ought to welcome it."

The document, predictably, was peppered with the caveats which would ensure that the new technology would be introduced in the correct fashion, with proper consultation between management and workers. Nevertheless it was a significant commitment.

What was equally surprising was Hattersley's commitment to cheap, large-scale loans to companies for expansion, increased investment in research and development, education and training.

Speed was of the essence since the IT trade deficit was £2.3bn, ten times greater than 1981, while only 6.6 per cent of Britain's 15 years olds go to university. Graduates had a vital role in reversing that trade imbalance. By contrast 36 per cent of school leavers in Japan go to university.

Says the Labour strategy: "Even Singapore has overtaken the UK, moving from almost zero to 10 per cent in 20 years... All children should have had some experience with computers before they leave primary school. This is probably best done by integrating the use of computers throughout the curriculum -

they can be used for history or spelling as well as arithmetic and science. In the process everyone will learn to work with a keyboard and terminal."

The policy, Hattersley claimed, would be devised to ensure that the country does not waste the talents of half its population. Girls as well as boys will be required to take science and technology subjects. Training schemes in later life would make the British workforce educated and flexible.

Hattersley declared: "The shortage of information technology, and other suitably qualified graduates, may now be so acute that our higher education sector cannot gear up fast enough to meet the demand. The only alternative may be to send more young people to foreign universities in the interim just as some less developed countries used to send people to Britain for their training in engineering, science, and technology."



Hattersley: 'Take advantage of the benefits'

Why Apple has bowed to the inevitable

By John Lamb

The rough winds shaking America's computer industry have been blowing around Apple Computer's boughs harder than most. The latest casualty of hard times at the company's Cupertino, California, headquarters is the firm's youthful co-founder Steven Jobs.

Jobs (30), has given up his post of general manager in the company's Macintosh division, following a reorganization at Apple. He remains as chairman and is now visiting Europe on a combined holiday and business trip.

Control of the once separate Macintosh and Apple II divisions is now in the hands of two functional groups: one responsible for manufacturing and distribution, the other for marketing and sales. The move is designed to end intense rivalry between those who work on the eight-year-old Apple II and Macintosh teams.

Apple is now at pains to emphasize the importance of the Apple II which accounts for some 12 per cent of the American personal computer market, compared with 15 per cent for the Macintosh. Updated versions of the machine are promised for next year.

Besides centralising management control, Apple is also keen



Steven Jobs: latest casualty of hard times

to rid itself of its 'messy' last year. In the third quarter of 1984 Apple made over \$18 million on a turnover of \$422 million.

In recent months Apple has embarked on radical cost cutting to stem falling profits.

The company has dropped the Macintosh XL, a machine which started life as the Lisa, closed the factory that made the computer and sacked over 1,600 workers. Work on developing two peripherals, a file server and a 20 Megabyte hard disk store, for the Macintosh line has been altered.

Exhibition appearances and future advertising campaigns are also victims of the hard line. Apple recently announced that profits for its third quarter ending June 28 would be 45 per cent down on the same period

last year. In an attempt to boost sales, one Apple dealer has even taken to offering a free Italian bicycle with each Apple computer.

Biggest byte in memory

by Kevin Pearson

If Cray Research had sold one of its super computers for every 4,000 or so IBM Personal Computers sold in 1984 it would be a very rich company. As it was the company is highly satisfied with 1984 and has just unveiled what it claims is the most powerful computer in the world in the shape of the \$17.6 million Cray 2.

The largest Cray 2 has a memory of 2,000 million bytes, the largest memory available on any computer anywhere in the world and equal to over 4,000 of IBM's biggest PCs. It would also take several thousand PCs to do one operation that the machine is capable of, that is if you could harness them all to a single task.

Cray is based in Minneapolis in the Mid West. It expects to install three Cray 2s this year. Which goes to show that selling these machines is perhaps not as easy as Cray's financial results would have us believe. Not that Cray will have any trouble finding people to buy all the Cray 2's it can produce. But most of the sales of the machine will come from the 130 or so customers who already use supercomputers.

New prospects though are harder to convince. Cray has one of its own machines installed in the UK for demonstrations and tests - to show people how these incredibly powerful computers work. But it still takes time to justify the minimum of \$5 million that Cray charges for such computers.

One manager trying to sell Japanese built super computers in the UK described the sale as one of the longest he had ever come across: two years from making first contact to installing a machine. But with prices of the order of the Cray 2 even a few machines can make for a very successful company. Cray delivered 23 machines last year and expects to install 38 this year.

Two Cray 2's have already been sold, one to the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration and one to the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, both established supercomputers users. But according to Cray's Mr Davenport new uses for the giant number are being found all the time.

Aircraft and motor vehicle modelling are two such applications. Supercomputers are now used to model whole aircraft structures rather than parts, says Mr Davenport. And they are being used for "crash simulation instead of crashing motor vehicles into concrete blocks. They are being used to reduce the need for physical testing of every kind," he adds.

But as advanced as the Cray 2 is Mr Davenport says it is the mathematical techniques of simulation that have been the real breakthrough. With the kind of power available in the Cray 2 we can expect many more physical processes and situations to be simulated.



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Letters of application, giving details of experience, age and qualification, together with names and addresses of two referees, should reach me not later than 17th June, 1985.

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Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear
and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.00 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Nick Ross. Weather at 6.55, 7.55, 8.55, regional news, weather and travel at 6.57, 7.57, 8.57; national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 8.50; sport at 7.20, 7.45 and 8.20; a review of the morning newspapers at 8.37. Plus, Alan Titchmarsh's 'phone-in gardening clinic'; a recipe from Glynis Christian; fashion news from Gwyneth H. Ceefax. 10.30 Play School, presented by Brian James. The guest is Jane Marry, 10.50 Ceefax.

1.00 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Frances Corder. The weather details come from Michael Peck, 1.27 regional news (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles, 1.30 Pigeon Street. A See-Saw programme for the very young.

1.45 The Coming of Age. The last of five programmes about the problems faced in old age. This afternoon's programme deals with action groups for pensioners and among the guests is Glynis Hollingsworth of the Action Pensioners. The programme also includes contributions from Jack Jones, the former trade union leader, and David Hobman, director of Age Concern (P), 2.15 Ceefax. 2.30 Regional news (not London).

3.55 Caterpillar Trail, presented by Stuart Bradley, includes a visit to a sheepdog trial and the naming of a foal, 4.10 Country and City. A cartoon series (P), 4.20 Heathcote and Marmaduke. 4.35 Liff, presented by Maggie Henderson and Greg Rogers.

5.00 John Craven's Newsround. A 10-minute newsround for Su Ingle and Michael Jordan. Su explains the mechanics involved in the creation of a rabbit warren.

5.35 Dr Kildare. Part one of a four-episode medical drama about the threat of an epidemic in a community doctor's practice.

6.00 News with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Witchell. Weather. 6.35 London Plus.

7.00 EastEnders. Will Lohy's mechanical experience be sufficient to mend Alf's car? (See Choice) (Ceefax).

7.30 The Time of Year. Noel Edmonds goes back in time to January 1963 for tonight's guest, Michael Parkinson. Others appearing on the show are Johnny Hamp, former member of the Wakefield Twist Football Team, and Freddie and the Dreamers.

8.10 The Bob Monkhouse Show. The entertainer's guests tonight are Paul Daniels, Janet Brown and Sammy Calm (P).

9.00 News with John Humphrys. Weather.

9.25 Miami Vice. The two detectives, Crockett and Tubbs, persuade a past-his-best bush pilot to fly them to Colombia when they are assigned to investigate brutal killings involving families of drug dealers.

10.15 Italians. Part three of the repeat series illustrating modern Italy through the lives of 10 different Italians, focuses on Leonardo Timoni, an art restorer for half a century.

10.45 Film 85, introduced by Barry Norman, includes reviews of the new James Bond adventure, A View to a Kill, and Julie Walters's latest, She'll be Wearing Pink Pyjamas. Plus, an interview with Jean Simmons on the set of her latest film, The Yellow Pages, being shot in Denmark.

11.15 Taz. Alex discovers that his pet dog has not long to live and decides to make the dog's last days as happy as possible.

11.40 Weather.

TV-am

6.15 Good Morning Britain, presented by Nick Owen and Jayne Irving. News with Gordon Honeycombe at 6.16, 6.30, 6.45, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 6.50 and 7.30; exercises at 6.50 and 7.15; Pigeon Street at 7.20; pop video at 7.54; Janet Barnett's postbag at 8.15; a discussion on exam stress at 8.40; a recipe from Rustie Lee at 9.05.

9.25 Thames news headlines. 9.30 For Schools: expressing gratitude. 9.47 Meteo: counting and sharing. 9.59 Consideration for the others. 10.17 when the side comes down. 10.37 A young unmarried mother brings up her baby. 11.02 Learning to read with Basil Brush. 11.15 A seaside marriage. 11.32 A day in the life of a student nurse at a busy hospital. 11.49 The formalities encountered at an airport.

12.00 Cockleshell Bay. Robin and Rosie wake up to the news that there is an addition to the family. 12.10 Rainbow. Learning with puppets and guest Vince Hill (P). 12.30 The Sullivan.

1.00 News at One. Weather. 1.20 Thames news.

1.30 Play: The Bank Manager's Wife, by Valerie Kershaw. Valerie Kershaw and her husband, the actor and writer, Avril Elgar. Drama about a wife coming to terms with her husband's retirement (P).

2.30 My Marriage. In the final programme of his series Colin Meeke talks to Mr and Mrs Mason about problems and the joys of stepchildren.

3.00 Definition. Crossword game series, presented by Jeremy Beckett. His guests are Anita Harris and Joe Brown. 3.25 Thames news headlines. 3.30 The Young Doctors.

4.00 Cockleshell Bay. A repeat of the programme shown at noon. 4.15 Crystal Types and Stars. 4.20 Storybook. A new series, a new series begins with the tale of The Secret Snow (Oracle). 4.45 The Wall Game. Children from St Stephen's Junior School, Middlesbrough, try to discover the programme's theme (Oracle).

5.15 Connections.

5.45 News. 6.00 Thames news. 6.35 Reporting London, presented by Michael Barrat. Graham Addicot reports on the victims of the collapse of Lloyds Insurance syndicates and for the first time a number of them reveal how the debacle has left them penniless. Plus, Jackie Spredley on the Hacky Sack - the latest craze from the United States.

7.00 Emerald Farm. Jackie Merrick faces his final operation.

7.30 Give Us a Cue. Celebrity mine game, presented by Michael Parkinson. In Ah, Susan Maghann and Joan Saxon on Lancelotti's side are Joan Ackland, Arthur English and Kenneth Williams.

8.00 The Streets of San Francisco. Detective Mike Stone's daughter is the cause of her father's near demise (P).

8.00 Mr Peabody of Westminster. The final story of the series and in a dual of wit against one of his own kind Mr Peabody trusts his own judgement against that of Madam's (Oracle).

10.00 News at Ten and weather.

10.30 Casanova. A documentary about the battle in Italy that began in January 1941 and claimed 185,000 dead or wounded (Oracle) (see Choice).

11.35 The International. From Granada's Hall of Fame, performances by Salsola Digital and Clarence 'Frogman' Henry.

12.30 Night Thoughts.



Patrick Troughton: Long Term Memory: BBC 2, 9.35

In the annals of warfare, there can be many more forlornly optimistic declarations than that of the US general who announced during the 1944 battle for the monastery of Cassino: 'We'll take it like an old tooth'. The cost of that effort was the extraction of more than 185,000 dead or wounded. And it took six months before the last troops were from the shattered jaw. Granada Television's documentary CASSINO (TV, 10.30pm) analyses the battle with the help of newswire pictures so sharp you would swear you were watching a movie. But the documentary's strength lies just as much in the stories of some of those on both sides who survived the Cassino carnage. The documentary carries a sub-title: A Bitter Victory. A cliché, perhaps. But horribly well merited.

BBC 2

6.55 Open University: Questioning Theories. Ends at 7.20.

9.00 Ceefax.

9.28 Daytime on Two: the legacy of Mao Tse-tung's 42-year rule of the Chinese Communist Party. 9.45 Ceefax. 11.00 How the children of North American Indians used to live. 11.15 Ceefax. 12.02 Midweek: some problems, 12.10 Ceefax. 12.35 The emotional stress that sometimes comes with having one's own business. 1.00 Ceefax. 2.00 For the very young. 2.15 Exploring the world of 600 living islands and Borneo. 2.40 Children from Aberdeen and Brant reflect their own personalities through art.

3.00 House of Lords. Coverage of the afternoon's debates.

5.30 News summary with subtitles. Weather.

5.35 Play Golf. Playing the Percentages is the title of lesson nine of Peter Alliss's golf course (P).

6.00 Arentis. Ex-corticot, John Cole (Red Camerons) determined to show that he is a reformed character by taking St Sherman (John Smith) to the hiding place of a payroll robbery. But the journey doesn't go as planned (P).

6.50 Off the Record. Steve Blackett examines the record collection of Spike Milligan.

7.00 Wildlife Trek, presented by John Kershaw, Mark Elen and David Heworth. In the studio is Stuart Davis. On film, The Beach Boys; plus, the Screaming Blue Messiahs. Dawn Chorus and Andy White and the Ghost of Electricity.

8.00 Wildlife on Two. David Attenborough presents a programme all about the hedgehog (P) (Ceefax).

8.30 Behind the Lines. A final task for the would-be recruits to the Royal Marines: elite Mountain and Arctic Warfare units before they move to Norway to be broken into a force and plant high explosive charges on a radio mast.

9.00 Film Buff of the Year. The first of a new seven-part programme series presented by Robin Ray. Hosted by Simon, answers questions on Simon's. Simon Ray: John on Michael Caine; Christopher Ritchie on Howard Hawks; and Michael Parks on the historical aspects of the films.

9.35 Play: Long Term Memory, by M. J. Reid. Patrick Troughton and Pat Heywood star in this first play of a summer season which is about a man who walked out on his family 21 years ago but now wants to be reunited with his wife, much to the annoyance of his now-adult children and the suspicion of his wife. (See Choice).

10.30 Newsnight.

11.15 Weather. 11.20 Interval.

11.30 Open University: The Central Nervous System. 11.45 Brazil: Samba and Sandsegaram. Ends at 12.25.

CHANNEL 4

2.30 The Human Jungle. On the psychiatrist's couch this afternoon is a man with a double life as a successful designer with an ambitious wife and in the country with his mistress. Starring Herbert Lom, Alan Dobie and Rita Tushingham.

3.25 What's in the Every. (1941) starring the Three Stooges as ice salesmen attempting to deliver their wares to the top of a house. Directed by Del Lord.

3.45 In My Experience. The first of a series of four interviews with Mavis Nicholson with women who are still active professionally although beyond retirement age. Miss Nicholson's first guest is Barbara Castle. (See Choice).

4.30 Television Scramble. Yesterday's winners of the electronic board game are challenged by a member of the public partnered by Paul Gambaccini.

5.00 Bewitched. Continuing last week's story in which dopey Aunt Clara summoned up Benjamin Franklin instead of an electrician, Samantha finds herself defending the old man who has been charged with the theft of a fire-engine.

5.30 Pets in Particular. James Alcock tries to convince Lesley Judd that rats would make excellent pets. Lesley sends him to home with chipmunks. There is also a visit to Stow-in-the-Wold horse fair and news of guide dogs - for the deaf.

6.00 The Avengers. Stead and Tara King do battle with the evil forces of the underworld. Starring Patrick Macnee, Linda Thorson and, as Kruger, Ian Cuthbertson.

7.00 Channel Four news.

7.50 Comment from Benazir Bhutto, daughter of the late president of Pakistan and active member of the Pakistan People's Party. Weather.

8.00 Brookside. Karen arranges a date with the student she met at the library.

8.30 4 What It's Worth. Introduced by Peter Jones, who chairs a studio debate on the subject of pesticides. Among those taking part is Peggy Fenner, MP, junior minister of agriculture. Also in the programme is a report on the company problem of pop group, Dr. Q, and a Which? magazine verdict on the Sinclair CS.

9.00 Film: The Last of the Great Starbuckers (1983) starring Pam Dawber as Laura Manners, a social worker fighting to prevent the tenants of a dilapidated building from being evicted. A made-for-television film directed by Jerry Jameson.

10.45 Eastern Eye. This week the programme is devoted to classical music and dance and features performances by star player Nikhil Banerjee, cellist Anup Biswas and dancer Sandrasekaram. 11.40 Closes.

CHOICE

● Mavis Nicholson, chatting with Barbara Castle in MY EXPERIENCE (Channel 4, 3.45pm), takes her political briefing as read. And quite right too. BBC Television explored Mrs Castle's political credo thoroughly some months ago in a documentary, and we can have too much of a good thing. It is the essential woman with the brain, and who reads aloud from her father's poem about chess to support her case that, in the game of life, she is instinctively on the side of the pawns.

Peter Davalle

Radio 4

On LW. Also VHF stereo.

5.55 Shipping. 6.00 News. 6.15 Shipping. 6.30 Shipping. 6.45 Shipping. 7.00 Shipping. 7.15 Shipping. 7.30 Shipping. 7.45 Shipping. 8.00 Shipping. 8.15 Shipping. 8.30 Shipping. 8.45 Shipping. 9.00 Shipping. 9.15 Shipping. 9.30 Shipping. 9.45 Shipping. 10.00 Shipping. 10.15 Shipping. 10.30 Shipping. 10.45 Shipping. 11.00 Shipping. 11.15 Shipping. 11.30 Shipping. 11.45 Shipping. 12.00 Shipping. 12.15 Shipping. 12.30 Shipping. 12.45 Shipping. 1.00 Shipping. 1.15 Shipping. 1.30 Shipping. 1.45 Shipping. 2.00 Shipping. 2.15 Shipping. 2.30 Shipping. 2.45 Shipping. 3.00 Shipping. 3.15 Shipping. 3.30 Shipping. 3.45 Shipping. 4.00 Shipping. 4.15 Shipping. 4.30 Shipping. 4.45 Shipping. 5.00 Shipping. 5.15 Shipping. 5.30 Shipping. 5.45 Shipping. 6.00 Shipping. 6.15 Shipping. 6.30 Shipping. 6.45 Shipping. 7.00 Shipping. 7.15 Shipping. 7.30 Shipping. 7.45 Shipping. 8.00 Shipping. 8.15 Shipping. 8.30 Shipping. 8.45 Shipping. 9.00 Shipping. 9.15 Shipping. 9.30 Shipping. 9.45 Shipping. 10.00 Shipping. 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Reagan informs Gorbachov of Salt 2 resolve

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

President Reagan yesterday sent a letter to Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, informing him of the United States decision to remain in basic compliance with the unratified Salt 2 arms control treaty.

Similar messages were sent to Nato leaders, who voiced strong support last week for continuing to adhere to the 1979 agreement, despite evidence of Soviet violations.

Members of Congress were informed of the decision yesterday morning, shortly before it was formally announced by the White House.

The policy of "proportionate responses", which the President agreed to during a weekend of intense negotiations at Camp David, represents a carefully crafted compromise intended to be acceptable to the rival factions within the Administration who had been battling over the issue for weeks.

The policy is designed to keep the United States technically within the agreement, which expires at the end of this year, while showing that it is ready to respond to any new violations.

Squatter diplomat agrees to leave flat

Continued from page 1

that the Queen had intervened in the case by passing on a petition from her to the Foreign Office. Mr Rajab had been ordered to leave the flat in February by a west London court after a settlement involving £8,500 compensation from the Chafferys.

The Foreign Office, which had failed to obtain any action in response to two letters from its Head of Protocol, Mr Eustace Gibbs, to the Syrian Ambassador, Mr Loulou Allah Haydar, on April 16 and May 14, finally summoned him in person on May 31, soon after Buckingham Palace became involved, and set the deadline for an end to the problem.

Government sources said that Mrs Margaret Thatcher was taking a personal interest in the case and regarded Mr Rajab's behaviour as "unacceptable". It appears that Mr Rajab has been put under a certain amount of pressure to comply. Yesterday morning he told *The Times* that "yes, of course", he was going to leave but would not specify when.

Later, however, his lawyer Mr Peter Gilbert, announced that he would leave by Friday. The Foreign Office said that the details of the dispute were not relevant to the situation. As far as it was concerned, the diplomat had "acted in a way which amounts to an abuse of diplomatic immunity".

Mrs Chaffery, at a friend's house, said: "We have lost £30,000 over this. I just don't think we could possibly afford to live there any more, even if we do get him out."

She said that the worry had made her ill for several months, her children, Samantha, aged 14, and Daniel, aged 11, had both run away from school several times and Samantha, too, had been ill. "I don't think John and I will ever get over this. John's building business has gone to pot. We have lost everything."

Mr Rajab had not told them he was a diplomat, she said. "All I can say to others is don't ever fall into this trap yourselves. Everybody in the world, it seems, has the right to come into this country and become a statutory tenant, which is what this man did. It is amazing that we were evicted legally from our own home."

Karsh portrait of Duke



The Duke of Edinburgh who celebrated his sixty-fourth birthday yesterday. The photograph which was released recently, was taken last year by Karsh of Ottawa.

Katyusha rockets hit Israeli settlement

Continued from page 1

began searching for the launch place.

For several hours, the embarrassed authorities refused even to confirm that Katyushas had been used in the attack on Shomara, a picturesque farming settlement which houses 60 families.

But when we arrived two hours after the explosions, there was no mistaking the twisted metal fins being dug from the charred earth by Israeli experts, who refused to make any comment.

As well narrowly missing the school - which serves as a whole region - the rockets also fell close to one of the tents camps the Israelis are building along the border to house the rapid deployment force which will be charged with carrying out retaliatory raids in Lebanon.

Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, has threatened a scorched-earth policy across the border in response to any renewed attacks on the vulnerable Galilee settlements. Although such attacks had been predicted, few army men appeared ready for them to have begun with such speed.

The return of the rockets overshadowed the Army's announcement of the completion of its withdrawal four days later than the deadline - a delay which military sources ascribed to recent disintegration in the ranks of the SLA, the proxy militia charged with patrolling the "security" zone Israel has set up inside Lebanon.

The return of the units to the border was a carefully staged event, with pretty women in hand to give kisses and present paper flowers to the men. Less publicity was accorded other crossings on the border, where I observed a number of Israeli vehicles moving north into Lebanon.

One armoured lorry had been so freshly changed into the distinctive grey of the SLA that the smell of paint was still detectable.

Inside, with a large amount of communications equipment, were four Israeli soldiers, some of the estimated 500 advisers who will remain in Lebanon to back up the SLA.

Letter from East Europe Where the goals are propaganda

President Reagan was not actually throwing missiles himself, but he was of course to blame for the Brussels football riots. The moral corruption of America and its cult of brutality poisoned the minds of the Liverpool and Juventus fans: that was the conclusion of the press in the Soviet bloc, addressing the millions of East European television viewers who watched the warring in the stands.

There is political capital to be made; it is not a time for socialist propagandists to stand idly by. "Look," said one of General Jaruzelski's advisers to a Western visitor, "nobody tries to make Liverpool into political heroes; it is a matter of shame. So why do you make freedom fighters out of the young hooligans in Gdansk who throw rocks at the police in the name of the so called opposition?"

It is in the nature of communist legal systems to define demonstrators as hooligans.

Ripping down red flags during a Solidarity march? "A juvenile delinquent. Tossing leaflets from rooftops, organizing or simply marching in protest against the Government? "Young mobsters inflamed by alcohol!"

Under new expanded powers, a young Pole who "participates in a gathering which collectively assaults a person or property" can be arrested, tried and sentenced within 48 hours to a jail sentence of up to five years. Calling for a crime to be committed in a public place carries similar penalties: "assuming actions aimed at causing public unrest" can lead to a three-year jail term, again within 48 hours of arrest.

Although the measures are probably aimed at demonstrators, they will have the effect of inhibiting football crowds who, in Poland at least, usually confine themselves to chanting and the occasional scuffle.

Quite apart from the political factor, which has been pushing up Poland's juvenile delinquency figures

and cramming magistrates' courts with hundreds of teenagers after every demonstration, there is a serious youth crime problem facing the Soviet bloc. The Hungarian Ministry of the Interior recently announced a five-year rise in offences committed by people under 18.

Vandalism of public telephone booths has caused about \$80,000 worth of damage and 700 booths had to be closed.

Alcohol appears to be a major contributory cause in Hungary as in the rest of Eastern Europe. Although there are restrictions on selling vodka and spirits to youngsters, the rules are far more elastic than in Britain.

In the Polish countryside, in the rural co-operatives of Hungary, the model of a good Saturday night out involves hard liquor, loud music, a borrowed car and girls, more or less in that order. "The alcohol gives courage. And the teenagers to break into fuel stations or shops and later, as the excitement wears off, to brawl."

But there is also a trend in the new towns - the huge sprawling concrete colonies built in the 1950s to house workers - for the disgruntled youth to split into rival gangs and engage in pitched battles. This has been particularly prevalent in the southern steel-city of Nowa Huta in Poland, but other Soviet bloc countries have similar difficulties with the teenage tribes who label themselves "punks" or "Nazis" or "blacks" or various sub-species of punk.

Tentative sociologists have begun to study the problem and are coming up with explanations such as "the rootlessness of youth" and "the crisis of thwarted expectations" that are suspiciously akin to Western analyses of juvenile crime in the capitalist world.

But the ideologists, such as their want, are continuing to blame President Reagan, who at least cannot be accused of youth.

Roger Boyes

Von Bulow ordeal ends with acquittal

Continued from page 1

injections given by her husband.

The defence set out to show that the comas were caused by Mrs von Bulow's abuse of drink and drugs. Much of the evidence came from medical specialists.

Judge Corinne Grande refused to allow the prosecution to call evidence, as it had in the first trial in 1982, that Mr von Bulow stood to gain \$14 million on his wife's death. The judge ruled that this was not relevant.

This was a blow to the prosecution case that there was a money motive, and Mr von Bulow's stepson commented that he "could not understand why \$14 million isn't considered the motive to murder someone".

Immediately after the verdict Mr von Bulow telephoned the news to his daughter, Cosima, who has always stood by him.

Talking to reporters Mr von Bulow said: "Of course, this has been a chunk out of my life, but there has to be a purpose to this suffering. It is not for any human being to say."

Asked what his immediate plans were, the elegantly dressed and chain-smoking Mr von Bulow said, with a smile: "I am going to give up smoking and have a holiday."

The von Bulows once glittered in Manhattan society and also in Newport, the summer camp of New York society. The trials of Mr von Bulow have been sensation.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
The President of Mexico and Senora de la Madrid pays a State Visit to the United Kingdom; arrives Gatwick Airport, 11.35; Victoria Station, 12.30; carriage procession leaves Victoria Station for Buckingham Palace, 12.40; arrives Grand Entrance, Buckingham Palace, 1. Later the President, accompanied by Senora de la Madrid, visits Westminster Abbey to lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior, 4.30; and attends a State Banquet at Buckingham Palace, 8.30.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, confers Honorary Fellowships and then attends a reception at the school, Keppel Street, London WC1, 5.30.

Princess Anne, visits Chard, Somerset, during Jubilee Week to

celebrate 750 years of Borough status, 12.

Exhibitions in progress
A range of high quality handmade pieces by Northumbrian craftsmen: Mouthall Hexham, Northumbria; Monks to Sat 10 to 4.30 (ends June 22).

Andrew Carnegie 1835-1919: National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5, Sat 9.30 to 1, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Sept 27).

Personal Collection: a celebration of 20th century photography, City Museum and Art Gallery, Broad Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent; Mon to Sat 10.30 to 5, Weds 10.30 to 4 (ends July 14). Contemporary Cotswold artists: The Cross Tree Gallery, Filton, Lechlade, Gloucestershire; Sat 10 to 1 and 2 to 3.30 (ends Sept 28).

18th and 19th century clocks made in Llanwrst in Gwynedd; Grosvenor Museum, 27 Grosvenor

St. Chester; Mon to Sat 10.30 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends July 15).

Finds from the Armada Ships La Trinidad, Valencia and Girona; Fermanagh County Museum, Castle Barrington, Enniskillen, Northern Ireland; Mon to Fri 10 to 12.30 and 2 to 5, Sat 2 to 5 (ends June 22).

Miniature quilts and quilted miniatures by Judith Perry; Chipping Campden Needlecraft Centre, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire; Mon to Sat 9.30 to 1 and 2 to 5.30.

Music
Boston Festival: Recital by Piano Duo Cronanynack from Belgium; Sun Newsum Music Centre, Boston, Lincs, 7.30.

Aldeburgh Festival: Weir Portrait-Concert by Neil Mackie (tenor), John Blakey (piano) and members of the London Sinfonietta; Jubilee Hall, 11am; concert by the Vermeer String Quartet, Soape Maltings Concert Hall, 8pm; organ recital by Ralph Downes, Parish Church, 10.30am.

Organ recital by Michael Harris; Leeds Parish Church, 7.30.

Recital by Ruth Yarroworth (soprano) and James Abraham (organ); The Chapel, The College of Ripon and York St John, York, 7.30.

Organ recital by James Parsons; St Mark's Church, Bromhill, Sheffield, 7.30.

Organ recital by Christopher Newton; St Ann's Church, Manchester, 12.45.

Concert by the Borders Big Band; Dryburgh Abbey Hotel, St Bonwells, 8pm.

Concert by the Manchester Sinfonietta; St Peter's Chaplaincy, Precinct Centre, Oxford Rd, Manchester, 7.30.

Recital by Billy Gilmore (soprano), John Baker (piano); Belfast Cathedral, 8pm.

Organ recital by Andrew Beniers; Chichester Cathedral, 1.10.

Cambridge University Music Society Concert; Concord Hall, West Rd, Cambridge, 2.30.

Organ recital by David Morgan; Creaser Parish Church, 8pm.

Music for Baroque organ; St Peter Mancroft Church, Norwich, 7.30.

Talks, lectures
The truth of fiction, by Cedric Watts, Molecular Sciences, University, Brighton, 6.30.

Managers for the 21st Century, by Sir Kenneth Coddie; Richmond Building, Bradford University, 5.30.

Wimbledon tickets
Forged tickets for Wimbledon are being sold, the All England Lawn Tennis Club warned today. Anyone who has bought tickets for Wimbledon from unofficial sources (should) telephone: 01-741 9977 (between 8am and 8pm), a special number set up by the Club to find out whether they are genuine.

Parliament today
Commons (2.30): Debate on Opposition motion on famine and debt crises facing developing countries. Debate on Opposition motion on plight of young people.

Lords (2.30): Transport Bill, second reading.

Anniversaries
Births: Ben Jonson, London, 1572; John Constable, East Bergholt, Suffolk, 1776; Richard Strauss, Munich, 1864; Death: George I, England, 1727; Sir John Franklin, explorer, King William Island, 1847; Alexander Kerensky, revolutionary, New York, 1970.

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending June 2

- 1 Coronation Street (Mon), Granada, 14.00m
- 2 News (Mon) 21.00m, ITN, 15.00m
- 3 The Saturday Night Show, Thames, 12.30m
- 4 Cracker (Wed), Central, 12.15m
- 5 The Saturday Night Show, Thames, 12.30m
- 6 The Saturday Night Show, Thames, 12.30m
- 7 The Saturday Night Show, Thames, 12.30m
- 8 The Saturday Night Show, Thames, 12.30m
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- 1 European Cup Final 1985, 14.00m
- 2 The Saturday Night Show, Thames, 12.30m
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Roads

Wales and West: M4 Preparatory work for contraflow system affecting eastbound carriageway; between junctions 24 (Newport) and 22 (Chepstow), Gwent; eastbound access at junction 24 now open.

A396: Temporary lights in several places between St Austell and Lostwithiel, Cornwall, including Lostwithiel bypass. A5119: Temporary traffic lights between Filton and Northrop, Gwent.

The North: M6: Contraflow between junction 20 (M56 N Wales) and junction 21 (A57 Warrington), Cheshire; delays for westbound traffic on M62 from junctions 10.

A67: Ashdon Rd closed to traffic approaching Chelmsford, Essex; Manchester: diversion, A1: Bilton Hall Bridge, Jarrow, Tyne and Wear; Contraflow near southern entrance to Tyne Tunnel.

Scotland: M74: Southbound carriageway closed between junctions 2 and 1 (Larbert) to Larkhall, Strathaven; contraflow on northbound. A92: Lane